

# **CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE GAINESVILLE COURTHOUSE AND SURROUNDING TOWN**

## ***FINAL REPORT***

by

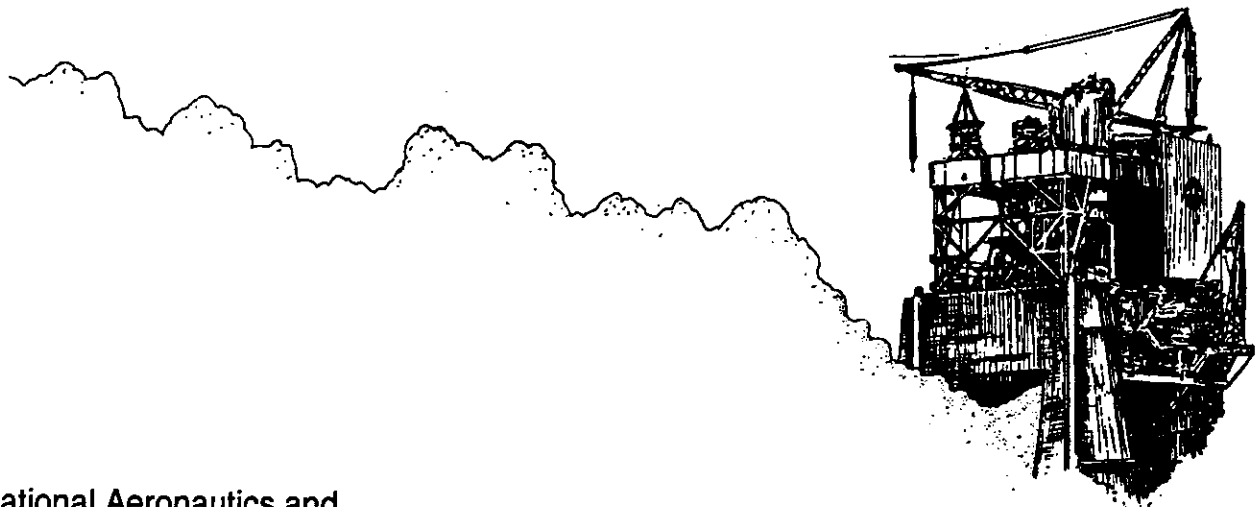
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**with contributions by  
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**July 1996**



**National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration**

**John C. Stennis Space Center**

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
John C. Stennis Space Center  
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Reply to Attn of: GA00

July 10, 1996

Mr. Elbert Hilliard  
Mississippi State Historic  
Preservation Officer  
Attn: Mr. Roger Walker  
Interagency Coordinator  
Department of Archives and History  
P. O. Box 571  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0571

JUL 17 1996

07-073-96

Dear Mr. Hilliard:

Please find enclosed the final report that documents the historical research, archaeological survey, and excavation of the extinct river town and surrounding environs of Gainesville, Mississippi. This combined study is in conformance with our approved Historic Preservation Plan for Stennis Space Center.

This final report resolves all comments made by Mr. Jack Elliott of your office. If you concur with the document, please sign in the space afforded below and return to us within thirty day of your receipt of it.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in the management of historic resources at Stennis Space Center. If you have any questions, please contact me at 601 688-7384 or our Historic Preservation Officer, Mr. Eddie Gobert at 601 688-1647.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald G. Magee".

Ronald G. Magee  
Environmental Officer

Enclosure

Concurrence:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elbert Hilliard".  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Elbert Hilliard  
Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer

7-18-96  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

**Cultural Resources Survey of the Gainesville  
Courthouse and Surrounding Town**

**by  
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and Callie Hall**

**with Contributions by  
Marco Giardino, PhD**

**Thomas Sever, PhD,  
Principal Investigator**

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## **Executive Summary**

A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Gainesville Courthouse and surrounding community was conducted in 1994 by NASA. The aim was to recover any evidence of the Courthouse, the Hancock County Seat until it burned in 1853. This objective was met as archaeological excavations revealed the remains of brick walls and numerous artifacts in the area where historic documents locate the Courthouse.

Furthermore, a Phase I archaeological survey, consisting of stratified systematic subsurface sampling of the adjacent Gainesville community was completed. Numerous European artifacts dated to the 19th and 20th centuries were recovered during this portion of the project. In addition, several Native American Indian artifacts were unearthed, mostly in association with European materials.

Stylistic and functional analysis of the artifacts supports the location of documented structures such as the Poitevent House, the Coffee Shop, and the Hotel. The function of additional localities within Gainesville which are not documented on historic maps were identified through the spatial analysis of artifacts. Further work is necessary to test these functional hypotheses.

The results of this project include recommendation for managing these cultural resources. It is recommended that the Courthouse Square be nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. An interpretative sign will be erected in this locality, as part of NASA's mitigation plan for this site and consistent with the John C. Stennis Historic Preservation Plan. In addition, the area around Harper's Bayou, designated as Sensitive Area 2 in Figure 14, will require Phase II mitigation in the event construction or other such activities threaten the preservation of this area.

This locality contains Indian and European artifacts and features that may increase significantly the knowledge of local history and prehistory.

Finally, the area of Gainesville that fronts the Pearl River and includes, among other features, the localities of the Poitevent House, the dry dock, the saw mills, the Hotel, the Coffee House, and the Public Square is designated as Sensitive Area 1 (Figure 14). This area will require additional Phase I testing should construction or related activities threaten its preservation. All other localities covered by this survey were deemed not historically unique or significant and will require no further archaeological work or mitigation prior to future construction.

# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### *Project Background*

This report documents the historical research, archeological survey, and excavation of the extinct river town and surrounding environs of Gainesville, Mississippi. Located within the southeastern edge of the John C. Stennis Space Center, the historic town of Gainesville has been studied under the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and a preservation strategy has been developed from the results of this research.

Gainesville originated in 1810 when Ambrose Gaines acquired a land grant along the Pearl River in Spanish Territory, which formerly covered the southern portions of Louisiana and Mississippi. Due primarily to the shipping and logging industries, the Gainesville area experienced rapid growth and eventually became one of the most prosperous towns of southern Mississippi. The town was incorporated in 1846 and served as the Hancock County Seat until the Gainesville courthouse burned down in 1853. The shift of the county seat from Gainesville to present-day Bay St. Louis and the by-passing of Gainesville by the railroad ended the prosperity of Gainesville. The town was abandoned on January 10, 1963, as construction began on the Mississippi Test Facility, presently the John C. Stennis Space Center (Figure 1).

The Gainesville archaeological project was conducted under the direction of Dr.

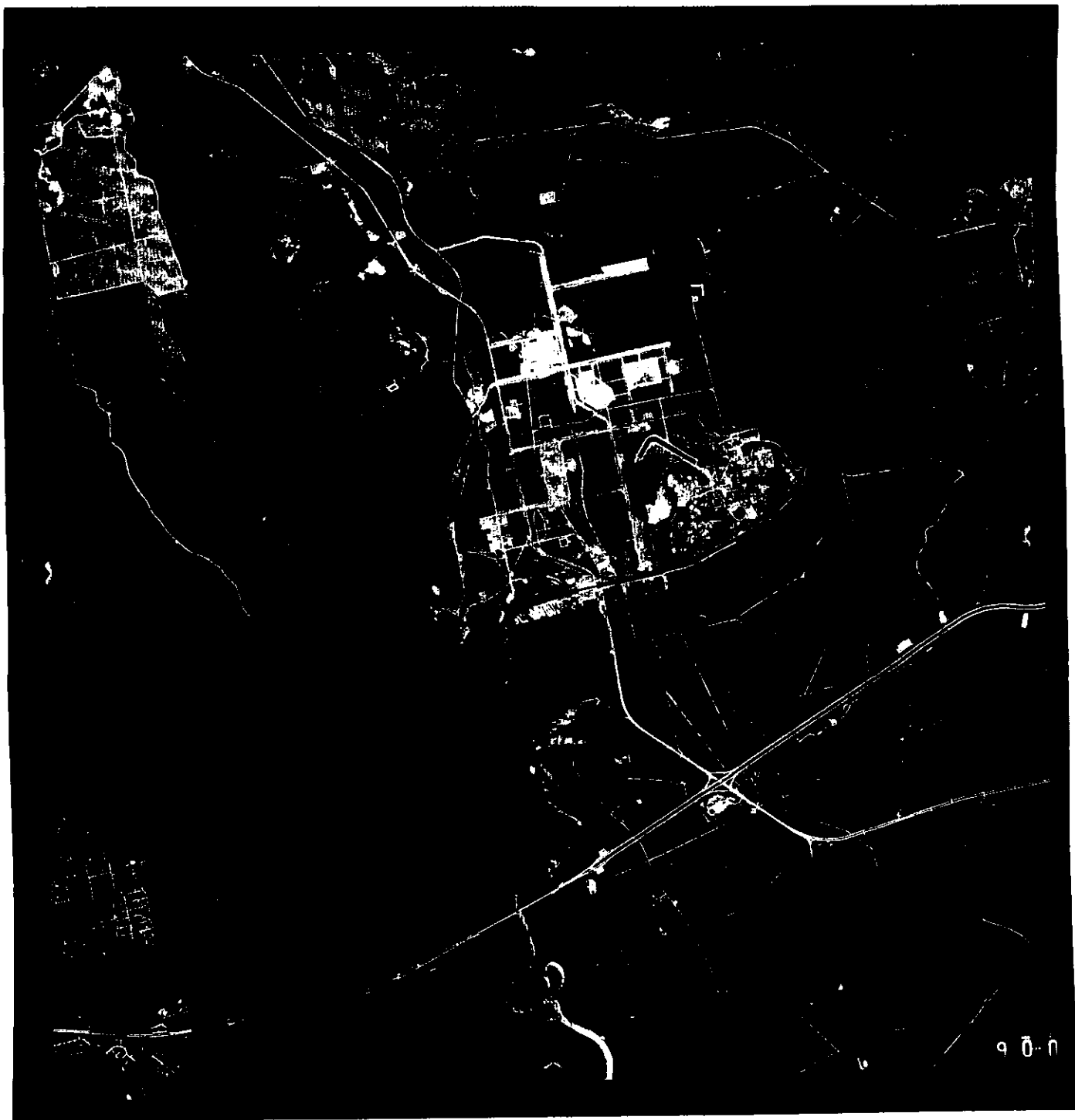


Plate 1. Color infrared photography  
of project area.

Thomas L. Sever. The Gainesville courthouse excavation and survey were supervised by Mr. Robert Jones III. The geologic setting and previous archaeological research were authored by Ms. Callie Hall. Artifact analysis, conclusions and management recommendations were authored by Dr. Marco Giardino and Ms. Callie Hall. Several other researchers and students assisted in the overall project. Thermal imagery of the site was recorded on videotape from an airplane to ascertain the use of the thermal region of the electromagnetic spectrum in archaeological research. These results are still pending. Color infrared photography of Gainesville was also acquired in May 1995 (Plate 1).

#### *Project Research Requirements*

During this project an extensive records search was undertaken to determine land ownership within the extinct polity of Gainesville. This historic record is incomplete due to the fact that most of the early documents were destroyed in the courthouse fire of 1853.

All of the original streets and roads of Gainesville have been located through historic documents and the excavation undertaken as part of this project. Stennis Space Center uses some of the old Gainesville roads for current purposes. Ground survey and shovel testing were conducted over most of the Gainesville area to look for

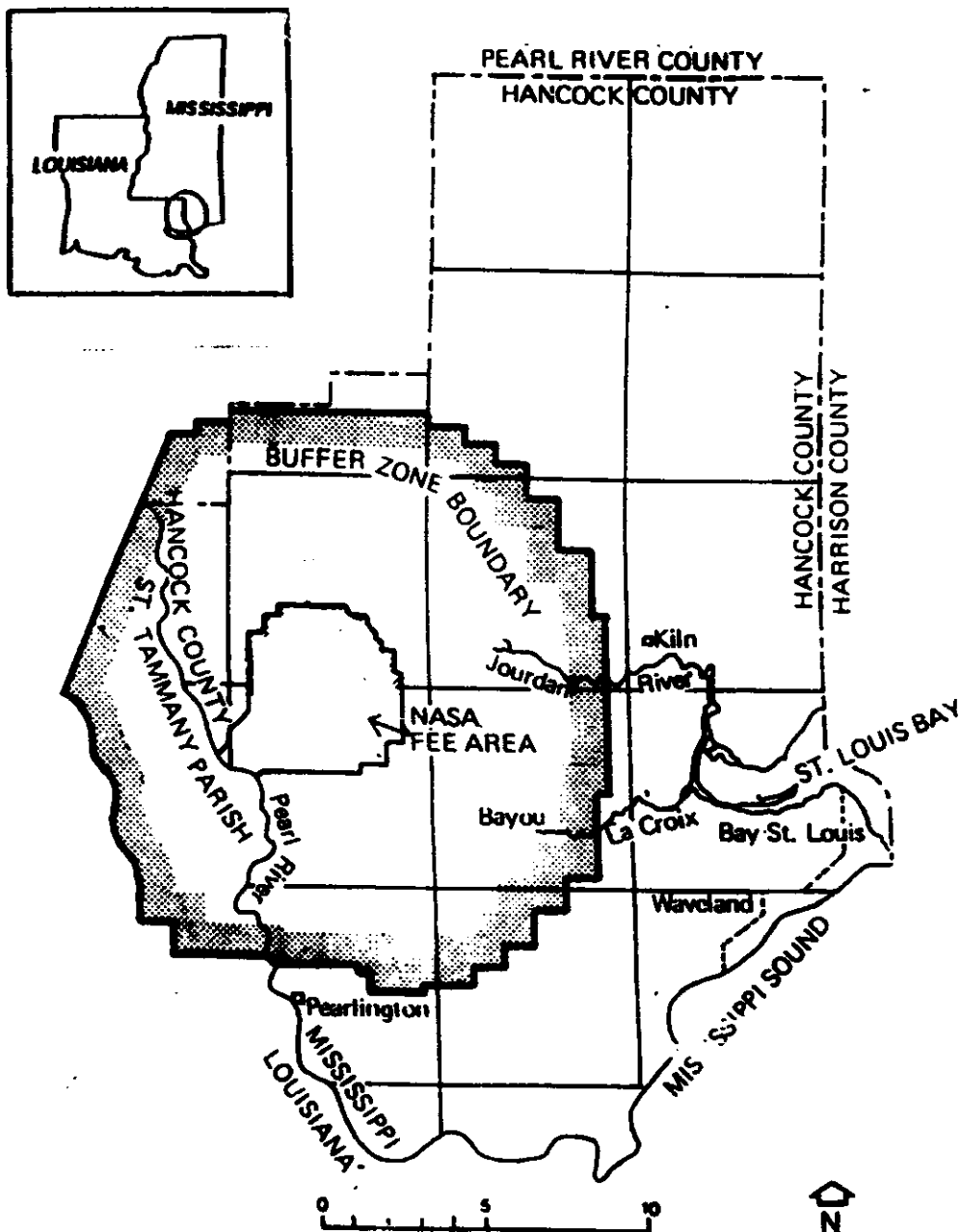


Figure 1. John C. Stennis Space Center Fee Area and Buffer Zone.

evidence of prehistoric and historic occupations.

One of the most significant discoveries of this project was the verification of the original location of the Gainesville courthouse. Through archaeological excavation, the brick foundations of the Gainesville courthouse were uncovered (pp. 30-38).

### *Report Organization*

The geological setting of the Gainesville area along the lower Pearl River in Mississippi is presented in chapter 2; the regional geomorphology, survey area geography, geological processes, stratigraphy, and soil analysis of the Gainesville area are also presented in this chapter. Chapter 3 contains the prior archaeological research and cultural history of the Gainesville study area. The historical setting and site history comprise chapter 4. Chapter 5 elaborates on the survey methods and analytical techniques used in the archaeological excavation of the Gainesville study area. The survey results and site assessments of Gainesville are discussed in chapter 6. In chapter 7 the shovel-testing survey of the Gainesville study area is examined. Chapter 8 describes the results of the preliminary artifact analysis and chapter 9 concludes with recommendations for future work and mitigation of the Gainesville courthouse square and related areas.



## **CHAPTER 2**

### **GEOLOGICAL SETTING**

#### *Regional Geomorphology*

Physiographically, the Gainesville study area lies in the East Gulf Coastal Plain region of the United States within the Pine Meadows geomorphic unit. The topography of the area is mostly low and flat with some slight variation in elevation (0 - 50 feet above mean sea level). The region to the south of the study area and extending westward along the Gulf of Mexico to New Orleans, Louisiana, is primarily marshlands intermingled with developed area. The Southern Pine Hills geomorphic unit lies to the north of Gainesville. In the Southern Pine Hills, the terrain varies from level to hilly with heavily forested areas of pine. The Mississippi and Pearl Rivers are the main water courses in the area. Both rivers are navigable and flow into the Gulf of Mexico.

Within the study area, recent-age alluvium, Quaternary coastal deposits and the Pliocene Citronelle Formation occur at the surface. There are locally heavy concentrations of organic material in these surface soils varying from thin lenses of organic material to layers up to five feet thick. Traces of organic material and organic staining occur throughout these surface soils. Well-preserved wood has been encountered at depths up to fifty feet which indicates geologically recent subsidence, typical of the deltaic area of the Gulf Coast (Otvos, 1982). The Citronelle is composed of sands and gravels with lesser amounts of clay.

The base of the Citronelle is about 150 feet deep in the study area. Underlying the Citronelle are over 2,000 feet of Miocene-Age sediments composed of interbedded clays, silts, and sands with some thick gravel layers. Individual strata commonly reach 100 feet in thickness. Depth to bedrock in the study area is currently unknown. It is possible that bedrock may lie approximately 10,000 to 12,000 feet below average sea level. There is no known karst terrain in the area ("Soils of the Stennis Space Center Fee Area," SSC Environmental Office).

#### *Survey Area*

The site of Gainesville is located in the southern pine region of the Gulf Coastal Plain bordering the Gulf of Mexico. "Soils of this low, flat area are nearly level and somewhat poorly drained or poorly drained. Natural stream channels are well defined. Flooding is frequent" (Soil Survey of Hancock County, Mississippi, 1981: 2). Acidic soil dominates the region, and the available water capacity is very high. The Pearl River Basin is low-lying, swampy and heavily wooded with coniferous plants, such as long-leaf pine, and hardwood trees, such as oak (Soil Survey, 1930). Grasses and legumes grow fairly well, as do wild herbaceous plants. Woodland wildlife in this region is plentiful and diverse, and the lakes, streams and woods of the area provide an abundant supply of food for human subsistence.

#### *Processes*

A comprehensive guide to the coastal geologic processes of southern

Mississippi was published by Ervin G. Otvos of the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Ocean Springs, Mississippi (Otvos, 1982). Otvos's analysis of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and its inland areas is the most extensive geological survey comprising the Gainesville study area. Therefore, it has been utilized considerably to explain the tertiary and quaternary processes forming the Gainesville area.

The Gainesville study area lies on a combination of Prairie Formation from the late Pleistocene and Holocene marshlands and swamp. The Prairie Formation formed during an episode of high water and merged laterally to form a continuous, shoreline covering. A dry period, toward the end of the Wisconsin glacial (23,050 B.C. - 16,050 B.C.) created the loess blanket in southeastern Louisiana and Mississippi, east of the Mississippi floodplain. By the time of the loess deposits, coastal rivers had already entrenched themselves into the Prairie surface and narrowed their floodplains - an event coinciding with the falling sea level occurring during the early Wisconsin stage. The pattern of loess deposition and the absence of eolian dunes on the Mississippi Coast may be attributed to erosion by shifting stream channels, a higher annual precipitation, and/or the absence of wide floodplains as source areas. Although no decisive proof has yet been found for a mid-Wisconsin interglacial period, many geologists (Fisk, 1940; Bernard and LeBlanc, 1965) rendered the Prairie Formation to be a plain formed in a mid-Wisconsin ("Peorian") interglacial and followed by valley cutting that occurred during the late Wisconsin glacial period. A pre-Wisconsin (Sangamon Interglacial) age for the Prairie Formation is generally accepted. The Sangamon Interglacial was the last high sea level stand before seas attained their

present level (Otvos, 1982).

### *Stratigraphy*

In the absence of stratigraphically deposited fossils, differentiation between subsoil formations have been made on lithologic data involving color, grain size, and other related factors (Otvos, 1982: 3). Miocene epoch units (dating 25 million to 13 million years ago) are the oldest geological sediments found on the Mississippi coastal area. "The oldest outcropping units on the mainland near the coast are detrital (clayey-sandy) Upper Miocene beds" (Otvos, 1982: 3). Southwest of the Mississippi mainland, a major fault system occurs, which increases the depth and thickness of Miocene units under the rapidly accumulating sediments of the Mississippi River delta complex. The Hattiesburg Formation comprises the lowest geologic layer; the Pascagoula Formation, representative of the Upper Miocene, is directly above the Hattiesburg Formation. Both layers consist of numerous gray and greenish-gray sand beds and clay which alternate in the formations. Because of the uncertainty involved in differentiating the base of the Pascagoula from the underlying Hattiesburg Formation, the maximum thickness of the Pascagoula has only been estimated to exceed 1,300 ft. (Otvos, 1982).

The Citronelle Formation dominates the Pliocene epoch (13 million - 2 million years B.P.). These units contain "gravelly sand and silty sand layers and lenses that form a usually thin (30 - 80 ft.) blanket over Upper Miocene units" (Otvos, 1982: 5). Due to the presence of finely dispersed iron oxide minerals, a variety of colors

typically characterize the silty, sandy Pliocene sediments. Dark yellowish-orange, moderate red, and moderate reddish-brown colors are frequent, but surface leaching turns them into dark and light yellowish-orange and moderate yellow colors (Otvos, 1982). During the Pliocene, clay and lignite beds were laid down on broad, merging floodplains that occupied a wide belt between the Mississippi River and the Atlantic coast. "Heavy mineral suites indicate the north-northeastern origin of these deposits. Kyanite, staurolite, tourmaline, zircon, rutile and minor amounts of epidote and garnet have been recycled from sediments derived from Appalachian metamorphic source rocks" (Otvos, 1982: 5 from Rosen, 1969, Isphording, 1970,1976).

The Pleistocene, or glacial, epoch (approximately 1 million - 11 thousand years B.P.) that formed the modern terrain was an age of great change. The Prairie Formation consisted of "muddy and clayey fine sands, moderately silty fine sands, and very fine sands" (Otvos, 1982: 24). Although these sediments are yellowish-gray, greenish-gray, and gray, oxidation changed these colors to very pale orange, pale yellowish-orange, and medium yellowish-orange near the surface. In areas near the Citronelle Formation, erosion of Citronelle deposits and its redeposition as Prairie sediments has created bright, Citronelle-like colors (dark yellowish-orange to moderate red). The Prairie Formation is 10 - 30 ft. thick and 26 - 30 ft. above sea level; this formation follows a southward-sloping plain (commonly 5 - 6 miles wide) which extends about 30 miles inland along the Pearl River (Otvos, 1982).

During the Holocene, or Recent, epoch (11,000 years ago - present), the terrain that currently dominates the project area was formed. The sea level is believed to have

stood at about 300 fl. below current levels about 18,000 years ago (Otvos, 1982). The most significant change in sediments from the late Pleistocene to the Holocene occurred due to a slight rise in sea level, during which some river valleys were converted into estuaries. But the sea level rise is generally believed to have greatly slowed down by about 2,550 - 2,050 years B.C.; sea levels reached to less than 3 ft. below their present location. Barrier ridges were formed, reflecting local variation in erosion, and a brackish environment prevailed. Little significant sedimentation occurred in the area during the Holocene. Consequently, the present marshlands and prairie formations have not changed very much.

### *Soils*

Most soils of the study area, which lies in the Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District, are derived from unconsolidated coastal plain sediments or more recent fluvial deposits from local streams or the Pearl River (Soil Survey of Hancock County, Mississippi, 1981) [See Figure 2]. The depth of these soils extends to approximately 60 inches until unweathered material is encountered. Such soils are usually extremely acidic and require liming for most agricultural purposes. Moisture, high levels of organic material, and moderately-weathered clay are important characteristics of the local soils. There are three combinative soil types prevalent in the Gainesville study area: the Atmore-Smithton-Escambia series, the Arkabutla-Rosebloom series, and the Smithton-Harleston-Escambia series (Soil Survey of Hancock County, Mississippi, 1981).

Figure 2. General soil map.

The Atmore soil is usually on broad, wet, upland flats largely in woodland. It is poorly suited to grow crops, fairly suited to pasture, and has severe limitations for urban uses due to wetness. The surface layer is a very dark gray silt loam generally with very high levels of organic matter. The subsurface grades from a grayish brown silt loam with brown and gray mottles to a gray silty clay loam mottled in brown, red, and yellow at depths of 60 inches. Permeability is moderate to moderately slow with high available water capacity and a low runoff (Soil Survey of Hancock County, Mississippi, 1981).

The Smithton soil is on floodplains, densely forested wet flats, drainages, and stream terraces. These wet and highly organic soils also present a relatively high risk of corrosion to uncoated steel and concrete ("Soils of the Stennis Space Center Fee Area," SSC Environmental Office). The surface is a very dark grayish brown fine sandy loam, usually with significant accumulations of organic matter. The subsoil is about 60 inches thick, characterized by a brownish gray to a gray fine sandy loam with brownish mottles. Permeability is moderately slow with a medium available water capacity and very slow runoff (Soil Survey of Hancock County, Mississippi, 1981).

The Escambia series is a somewhat poorly drained soil type commonly located on low upland ridges and side slopes with grades ranging from 0 - 5 percent. The surface layer is a very dark to dark gray loam with subsurface horizons grading from a grayish brown loam to deeper horizons of sandy clay loam mottled in shades of brown, red, and gray. This series is strongly acidic and has moderate to slow



permeability, high available water capacity, and slow runoff. While most soil of this series is in woodland, it is suited for crops and pasture with appropriate management of the seasonal wetness and of the high slope, where applicable (Soil Survey of Hancock County, Mississippi, 1981).

The Arkabutla and Rosebloom series occur mostly on the floodplain of the Pearl River. These soils are somewhat poorly- to poorly-drained silty soils classified as Fluvaquents, which are subject to flooding on average two or more times a year. Use of these soils is largely limited to woodlands due to severe wetness and flooding considerations for agriculture or urban applications (Soil Survey of Hancock County, Mississippi, 1981).

The Harleston series consists of moderately well-drained upland soils, formed by loamy materials. Slopes range from zero to five percent. These soils are found mostly on the wide flood plains of the larger streams, on broad wet upland flats, on the drainageways of low ridges, and on stream terraces. Harleston soils are associated with Escambia, Poarch, Saucier, and Smithton series (Soil Survey of Hancock County, Mississippi, 1981).

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **PRIOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND THE CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA**

#### *Previous Archaeological Research*

Very little archaeological study has been conducted along the southern end of the Pearl River. Gainesville's segment of the Pearl River has received little archaeological attention before this project and has been all but ignored in studies of the regional prehistory. Most current knowledge of the area's prehistory is derived from fieldwork done in the Mississippi and Louisiana Gulf Coast region.

A few notable analyses near the Gainesville study area were conducted before the current evaluation. Between 1932 and 1935, Moreau B. Chambers, working on a state survey for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, examined the southern half of Mississippi. He recorded three midden sites in the southern Pearl River area: 22Ha500, 22Ha506, and 22Ha507 (Moore, 1984: 199). The Claiborne site (22Ha501) in Hancock County, Mississippi, was excavated partly during the summers of 1969 and 1970 by Mississippi State University. A large collection of artifacts was obtained, and a shell midden was identified. The site, together with Cedarland, were the focus of several reports by Sherwood Gagliano (Coastal Environments, Inc. 1977; Gagliano and Webb, 1970). In the 1990s, Dr. Ed Jackson, of the University of Southern Mississippi conducted work at both Cedarland and Claiborne, in part sponsored by the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission. Publication of these

field studies is pending.

The Cedarland Plantation site (22Ha506), also in Hancock County, was another midden site investigated in the area. Both Cedarland and Claiborne have been extensively destroyed by pot hunters. Still, these two sites remain among the most important archaeological localities in the Southeastern United States.

In 1975, Dr. Richard Shenkel of the University of New Orleans (Moore, 1984: 203) conducted an archaeological survey of two bridge crossings over the East and West Pearl rivers, Louisiana. Although he noted that the area was to be of high archaeological potential, no sites or remains were uncovered (Moore, 1984: 203).

Recently, excavations have been conducted at the Jackson Landing Site, near Claiborne, by Marco Giardino and Robert Jones III. Poverty Point and Marksville occupations were discovered at this site, as well as Mississippian deposits. Publication of these excavations, including a detailed profile of the 30 foot high earthwork located near Jackson Landing are also imminent. This site had been explored previously (Williams, 1987) and remains well preserved.

Only two previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken within Stennis Space Center property prior to this report. The first, an undocumented survey taken by an archaeologist from Louisiana State University, produced no significant findings. The second report was an archaeological overview prepared by Smith (SSC Historic Preservation Plan, 1995) for the U.S. Department of Interior in 1984. "Field work appears to have been confined to a very limited 'windshield' reconnaissance of the property, and no systematic survey or subsurface testing was undertaken" (SSC

Historic Preservation Plan, 1995: 16).

### *Cultural Sequence*

The various artifacts found from the previously noted sites in the Gainesville vicinity have helped define the occupational periods of the study area prior to European contact. Given the local geological situation, the entire prehistoric cultural sequence is probably represented in the Gainesville study area. The major culture-periods represented include Paleo-Indian (12000 B.C. - 6000 B.C.), Archaic (6000 B.C. - 2000 B.C.), Late Archaic, (2000 B.C. - 1000 B.C.), Woodland (1000 B.C. - A.D. 700), and Mississippian (A.D. 700 - A.D. 1500) [Moore, 1984].

The Paleo-Indian cultural period, which spans the end of the Pleistocene to the beginning of the Holocene, is not a period of dense occupation in the Southeast. Artifacts from this period have been discovered along the Gulf Coast of Mississippi and its riverine components (such as the Pearl River Basin), but "most sites of this period are identified only by the presence of scattered projectile points discovered out of context on the surface of plowed fields and other disturbed surfaces" (Moore, 1984: 206). The Paleo-Indian period is marked by the subsistence on big-game hunting by small, mobile groups of people and the use of lithic technology such as fluted projectile points.

The Archaic period, which is subdivided into the Early and Late Archaic, was a period of increased cultural variability and human adaptability. Because of the ability of various groups to adapt successfully to a broad range of local conditions,

considerable differences in Archaic period societies have been discovered in regions across the Southeast (Moore, 1984). Woodland and riverine resources were being used more because of a warming trend at the end of the Pleistocene era. The beginnings of permanent settlement characterize the Archaic period. The variety of lithic technology increased tremendously in the Archaic; the average Archaic hunter had a diverse tool kit, comprising of notched and serrated points. It was during the Archaic period that habitation of the Pearl River Basin markedly increased (Moore, 1984). The Cedarland Plantation site is considered the type site of this period in the project area (Moore, 1984).

The Late Archaic period is affiliated with the dependence on the bow and arrow, incipient pottery making, agriculture, and, in some cases, mound building. Few subsistence changes occurred within the Late Archaic, and most findings of this period suggest that "the inhabitants of the coast and hinterlands continued a traditional way of life that included the exploitation of both aquatic and terrestrial resources" (Lewis, 1988: 112).

The Woodland and Mississippian period sites are the most common prehistoric occupations found to date around the Pearl River and the Gulf coastal area. The Woodland period for this locale can be divided into several temporal and cultural segments: Poverty Point (2000 B.C. - 500 B.C.); Tchefuncte, or Tchula, (750 B.C.- A.D. 250); Marksville (100 B.C. - A.D. 300); Baytown (A.D. 300 - A.D. 700); and Coles Creek (A.D. 700 - A.D. 1000). These Woodland and the Mississippian (A.D. 1000 - A.D. 1500) culture periods are summarized in Table I.

Period	Beginning Date	Distinction
Poverty Point	2000 B.C	Fiber-tempered pottery, baked-clay figurines, middens, mounds
Tchefuncte	750 B.C.	Widespread pottery use, reduction in stone artifacts, burial mounds
Marksville	100 B.C.	Very fine pottery, well-crafted points, elaborate ceremonialism
Baytown	A.D. 300	Arrow points, replacement of atlatl with bow, maize cultivation
Coles Creek	A.D. 700	Coastal-influenced technology and sustenance
Mississippian	A.D. 1000	Chiefdoms, elaborate burials, agriculture

**Table 1. Prehistoric cultural chronology of the study area.**

## CHAPTER 4

### HISTORICAL SETTING

#### *Site History*

The East Pearl River was the main channel of trade and travel to the surrounding coastal riverine area during the historic period. Gainesville was located approximately 55 miles northeast of New Orleans, Louisiana, and lay between Bay St. Louis and Picayune, Mississippi (Soil Survey of Hancock County Mississippi, 1930). This port town was situated on a bluff in a bend of the East Pearl River, the boundary that divided Louisiana and Mississippi (Coastal Environments, 1979). Gainesville was adjacent to two other communities, Logtown and Pearlington, located eight and ten miles, respectively, down the river. In the 1880's these communities were primarily sawmill towns essential to the timber industry (Soil Survey of Hancock County Mississippi, 1930).

Gainesville became a center of regional importance in the early 1800's. In 1810 Ambrose Gaines received a Spanish land grant for the project area, originally called Gaines Bluff or Cottonport. Andrew Jackson marched his troops through this area during the Battle of New Orleans in 1813 to avoid detection by British troops stationed in the Gulf of Mexico. Gainesville's famous pirate Pierre Rameau joined General Jackson's troops when they camped in Gainesville. Rameau and his men raided ships in the Gulf of Mexico and would escape into the swamps and bayous that characterize the Pearl River drainage (Thigpen, 1965; Ciko, 1981).

Although figures such as Jackson and Rameau helped romanticize this small river stop, the most lucrative enterprise of Gainesville was its industrious role in cotton, timber, turpentine, and shipping that was favored by its location on the river. Cotton from Jackson, Mississippi, and other towns upriver was loaded on flat boats, floated down to the gins of Gainesville and Pearlington, and shipped to New Orleans on schooners and steamboats (Thigpen, 1965). In Liverpool, England, Hancock County was recognized for growing the finest crop of Sea Island Cotton in the world (Advocate, 1846).

The rich timber grown in Gainesville and in the neighboring areas was in demand, and the need for this industry grew. W.J. Poitevent, one of the first settlers of Hancock County, contributed significantly to the wealth and prosperity of Gainesville. He moved from North Carolina in 1832 to open the Pearl River Lumber Company in Gainesville. This mill became one of the largest lumber companies in the South, and after the Civil War, the Poitevent and Farve Lumber Company became one of the largest in the United States. Timber from Gainesville and vicinity supplied the fuel needed to power the boats for the shipping industry in and around New Orleans and Gainesville. The shipping industry of Gainesville proved viable for business and for pleasure. Many people relied on the passenger ships from Gainesville to New Orleans for trade or for a pleasant vacation.

Research on the history of Gainesville has identified several establishments built at the site during its 150 year history. In May, 1845, the Gainsville Exchange, owned by T. Batte, opened at the corner of Center and Water streets. The hotel



included a billiard room and House of Entertainment (Gainsville Advocate May 20, 1845). On February 20, 1846, the Mississippi Legislature voted to move the County Courthouse from Shieldsborough to Gainsville (Ibid: February 20, 1846). Gainsville was incorporated on March 21, 1846. Other documented buildings include one or more coffee houses, the Carver home, the Poitevent home, and the Peterman house. Shops, stables, brick factories, dry dock facilities, steam mills and saw mills are also listed in historic records. The archaeological deposits relating to these establishments were sought during this project.

A visitor from New Orleans to Gainesville in 1845 describes vividly life in this bustling Mississippi community:

The haste in which I left Gainsville did not admit of my answering your inquiries as to how I was pleased with your town and my tour into the interior. But comfortable with the promise which I then gave you. I have taken this, the first opportunity to tell you plainly what I think of your town and how I was pleased. You remember I arrived about eleven o'clock at night, and therefore had no opportunity of judging correctly of the appearance of your town from the water. But the number of persons collected on the wharf at that time of night, and the number of white houses, magnified by the moon's misty light, let me to imagine your town more populous and much larger than it really was, but these errors were dispelled in the morning. After having enjoyed a refreshing sleep in one of the comfortable apartments of that excellent establishment not less creditable to the proprietor than to your town, I sallied forth in the morning to see your town and vicinity. I admired very much the beautiful front which your town presents to the river, the picturesque appearance of the umbrageous and verdant foliage of the wide spreading live oaks that fringe the river's margin and overshadow the waves beneath. (Gainsville Gazette, no.1 september 27, 1845).

#### STEAMBOAT LANDING, BRICKYARD, LUMBER MILL, AND DRY-DOCK

A Plat of early Gainesville (Folsom 1837), reproduced by E.S. Drake in 1938, shows

the location of the W.J. Poitevent Steam Line, lumber mill, public steamboat landing, and ship yard along the Pearl River (Figure 3). In addition, an article from the Gainesville Advocate of December 27, 1845 states that:

The citizens of the town of Gainesville have granted the privilege to our worthy and enterprising citizen, W. J. Poitevent, the privilege of constructing a Dry-dock on a portion of the town property bordering on the river. It will be ready for the reception of steamboats and vessels by next summer. We look upon this as a work of great public utility, and predict for it a great business.

The ship yard produced the steamer Mad Anthony which ran regularly between New Orleans and Gainesville. Eventually, Poitevent acquired a number of boats and steamships. S.G. Thigpen interviewed people who lived in Gainesville during the 1870-80's and states that:

According to the information I have, Captains Bill Poitevent made a fortune out of the operation of boats, not only up and down Pearl River but also to many other points. His boats were the best, steam operated, and fast. He later started a saw mill and a brick business in Gainesville and developed both into big businesses (Picayune Item, April 26, 1962).

While Drake's Plat shows the location of the Poitevent steam line, lumber mill (saw mill), public steamboat landing and ship yard (dry-dock), it does not show the location of the brick yard. As shall be seen, the brick yard area was discovered during a survey in 1995.

Additional information on the Poitevent's lumber and brick activities can be found in such articles as that of the Bay St. Louis Gazette, May 20, 1871. The articles states that:

This plan is made in conformity to the Original  
 Plan of the Town of Gainesville made by Chas. A. Folsom about the year 1837, A.D.  
 On the Original Plat the lot & block lines are shown in red ink. Owing to the faded and dilapidated  
 condition of said original plat, a few of the names cannot be deciphered.

This reproduction made Oct. 22nd A.D. 1938 by E.S. Drake, C.E.

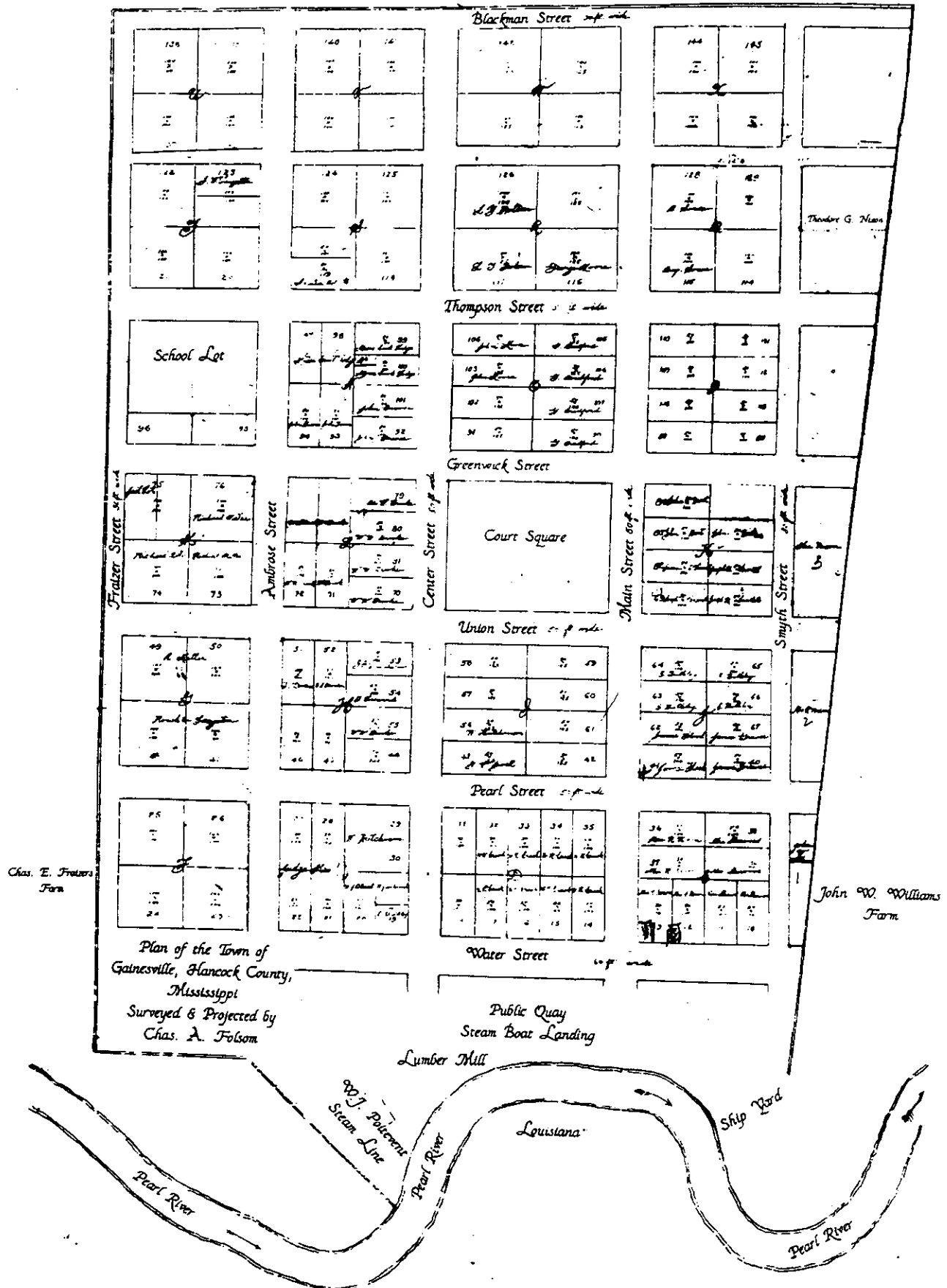


Figure 3. 1837 Folsom plat of Gainesville.

Some weeks ago, Capt. W.J. Poitevent of Gainesville suffered a heavy financial loss. A large barge loaded with brick in tow of his little steamboat "Duck" sand near Pointe-aux-Herbes in Lake Pontchartrain during a heavy blow, and the steamboat herself was beached and badly injured. At about the same time, he lost a large boom of expensive logs by its breaking through in the gayle. He estimates his loss at about \$12,000.

S.G. Thigpen states in the Picayune Item of April 26, 1962 that:

The clay to make the brick was ground with a mill, something like a cane mill, the horse going round and round. The clay was mixed with just enough water, then molded and then put in the kilns on the river bank.

### LOCATION OF POITEVENT AND CARVER HOUSES

In all of Gainesville's history, the three most famous structures were the courthouse, the Poitevent house, and the Carver house. Although no known photographs of the courthouse have been found, they do exist for the Poitevent and Carver homes. These houses were unique as indicated by historian, S. G. Thigpen:

All the houses of Gainesville were built of rough lumber with the boards placed up and down, except the big two-story mansion on the river banks built by Captain Bill Poitevent, and one other nice two-story house a little back from the river and known as the Carver house. The Poitevent place was a big, old style two-story Southern Mansion with a porch all the way around. Not long after I came to Picayune in 1917, I went to Gainesville and saw this fine old home, which was at that time in a bad state of repair (Picayune Item, April 26, 1962).

In 1897, the Carver home and several adjacent lots were sold to the Petermann family. A descendant, Mr. Thomas E. Petermann, visited Stennis Space Center in September of 1995 and brought additional maps which indicate the location of the Poitevent and Carver houses. One such map (Figure 4) was made by Albert T. Witbeck on April 4, 1908 to document a shooting incident which had taken place a

[illegible]

Figure 4. 1908 Witbeck map of Gainesville.

FROM DOCUMENTS OF TRIAL ABOUT 1908 OF DAVID MOYE

GRAVE  
YARD

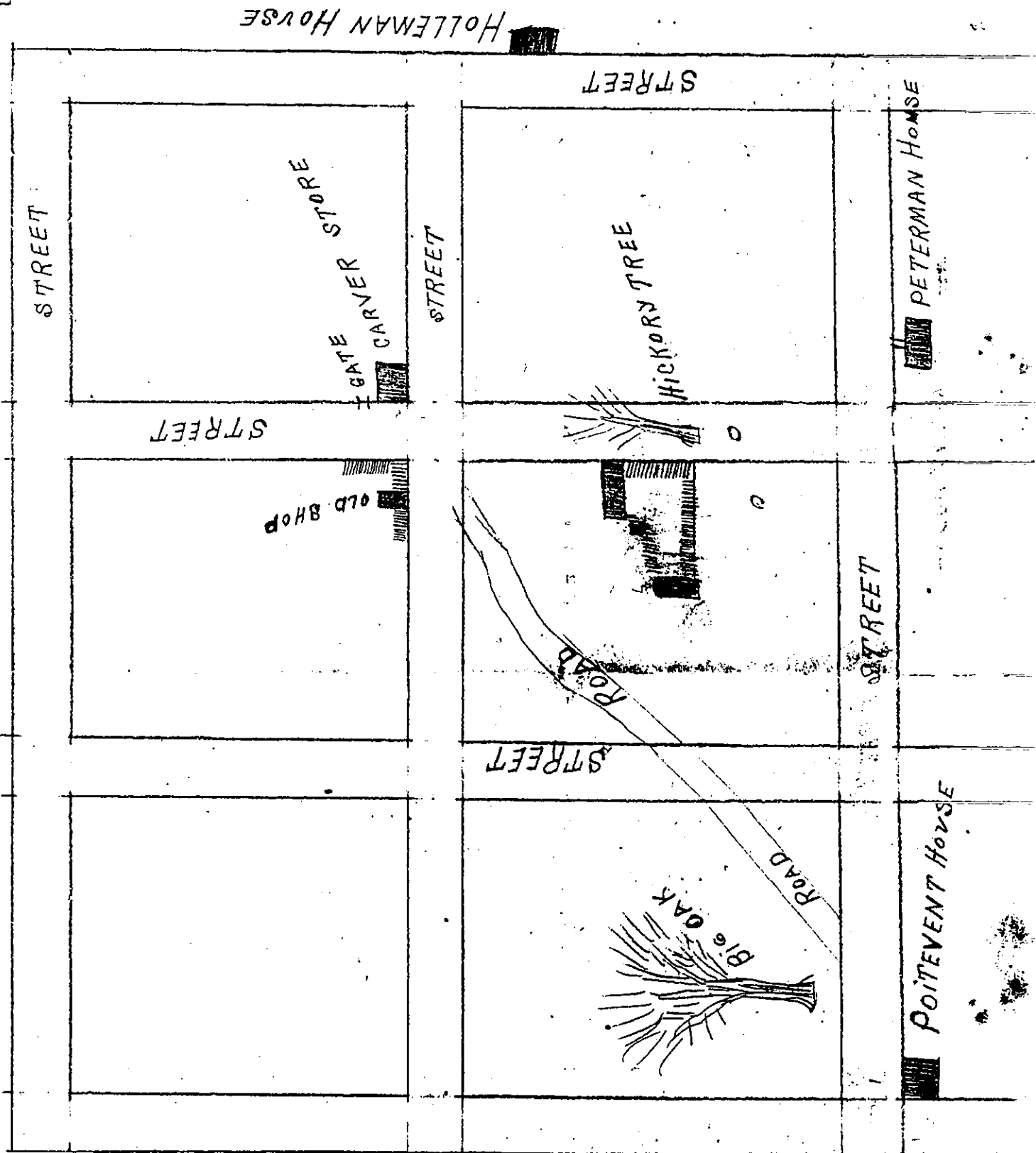


Figure 4a. 1908 Map

few months earlier on September 22, 1907. The location of the Poitevent House on this map agrees with the Thigpen text cited above. Archaeological testing supports the notion that the Poitevent house (Plate 2) was located on the river bank at the northeast corner of Water and Main streets.

On the same 1908 map, the Carver (Petermann) house was located just east of the courthouse square, two blocks back from the river. It was located on the northeast corner of Main and Union streets. Again, archaeological results from this project support the location of the Carver home at this site.

Witbeck's 1908 map corresponds to other historical documentation which shows that Gainesville had a sparse population at this time. Many of the surveyed streets were no longer used and were probably overgrown. In fact, the 1908 map shows that two major roads converged at Gainesville, near the Poitevent house. One road went to Pearlington, while the other went to Nicholson. On the map the Nicholson road can be seen diagonally crossing the squared, surveyed streets indicated on all of the Gainesville plats. Union Street, which was located right in front of the courthouse toward the river, has a large hickory tree growing in the middle of it. Although remnants of the squared streets can be seen today, there is no visible evidence for the Nicholson road, nor any idea of how long the road was used.

On March 31, 1853, the courthouse burned. The courthouse had been the main focus of government in the county. After the fire, the town was unable to provide a place to conduct county business. In 1854, the county jail was moved to Shieldsborough (present-day Bay St. Louis) because Gainesville's jail had fallen into

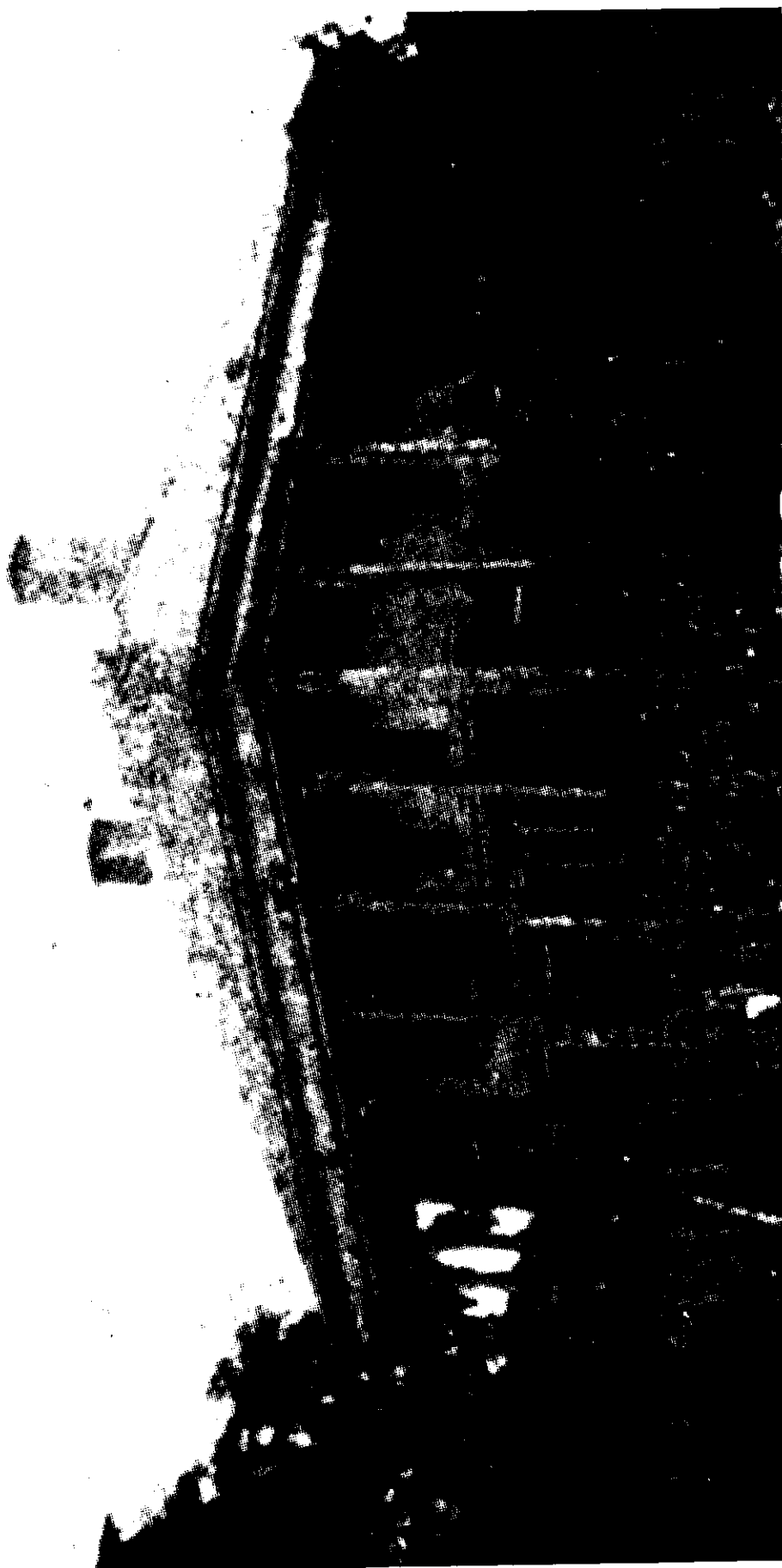


Plate 2. Poitevent House.



disrepair. All of the town records had been lost in the fire, and a law was enacted to restore Gainesville's land deeds (Laws, 1854). An election was held in March of 1867 to determine the fate of the county seat's locale. Gainesville retained the highest number of votes, but the decision was contested and overturned. The county seat was moved back to Shieldsborough in April 1867 (Works Progress Administration, 1937).

Although the loss of the county seat was a blow to Gainesville, the town continued to strive for economic growth -- until the railroad became a more accessible route for shipping and transportation. In 1883 the Southern Railroad Line between New Orleans and Meridian by-passed the town by ten miles. That same year two new towns were named along the railroad line: Picayune and Nicholson. Gainesville's economy made a sudden decline as many people moved in search of better jobs, most of the residents relocating to Picayune. The town dwindled to about seventy families by the early 20th century. In 1963, when the U. S. Government chose Gainesville as one of the locations for the future site of advanced space technology, there were about thirty-five families living in Gainesville (Lagniappe, 1978).

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **SURVEY METHODS AND ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES**

#### *Introduction*

The field work at the Gainesville Courthouse Square was initiated on June 21, 1994, and completed on August 5, 1994. The primary objective of this archaeological field work was to search for the foundations of the Gainesville Courthouse, which was built in 1846 and burned in 1853, and develop recommendations for its mitigation. In addition, the Gainesville archaeological project includes the cultural resources assessment of the town's former location.

Extensive testing was conducted in the Courthouse Square. Subsurface tests were employed systematically throughout the remainder of the Gainesville area.

The Gainesville Advocate (Saturday, February 21, 1846, no. XLI) notes, "By a letter from our member of the Legislature to a gentleman in this place, we learn that he has succeeded in having a bill passed for the location of the court-house in Gainesville. The conditions of the bill are, that the citizens of the county build a brick court-house and jail in Gainesville, one third of the cost to be paid out of the county treasury." In August of 1852, B. L. C. Wailes, a Mississippi State Geologist who visited Gainesville described the court house as "a poor wood structure, quite small." The excavations were conducted to reveal whether the courthouse's brick pillars were preserved, or if, in fact, brick pillars were used during construction of the courthouse.

Toward the end of the excavation project, Dr. Thomas L. Sever spoke to a Mr. Miller, now 90 years old, who had grown up in Gainesville. Mr. Miller recalled playing on the brick foundations of the Gainesville courthouse as a boy. He described it as a brick wall footing, two bricks wide, rectangular in shape, with brick pillars in the center. This information, along with historical records of the courthouse's location, lead us to believe that the brick foundation discovered during the 1994 field season is probably the foundation of the Gainesville Courthouse.

### *Methodology*

Excavations of the Gainesville Courthouse Square were initiated with the establishment of a baseline running north to south through the center of the site (Figure 5). The first one meter excavation unit was randomly chosen near the center of the baseline to explore stratigraphy. This test unit was excavated by ten centimeter levels to a depth of fifty centimeters and dry screened through a 1/4" screen. Once the stratigraphy was identified, all the other squares were excavated by one "natural" level 20 cm thick. The thickness of this level was sufficient, in most cases, to include the base of the brick foundation of the courthouse.

Initially, all excavated materials were dry-screened through a 1/4" screen. The frequent rains made dry-screening impossible during the later stages of fieldwork so the material was washed through a 1/4" screen instead. Excavations were conducted by shovel-skimming and hand-troweling. Notes, drawings, and photographs were completed for each level by the field director.

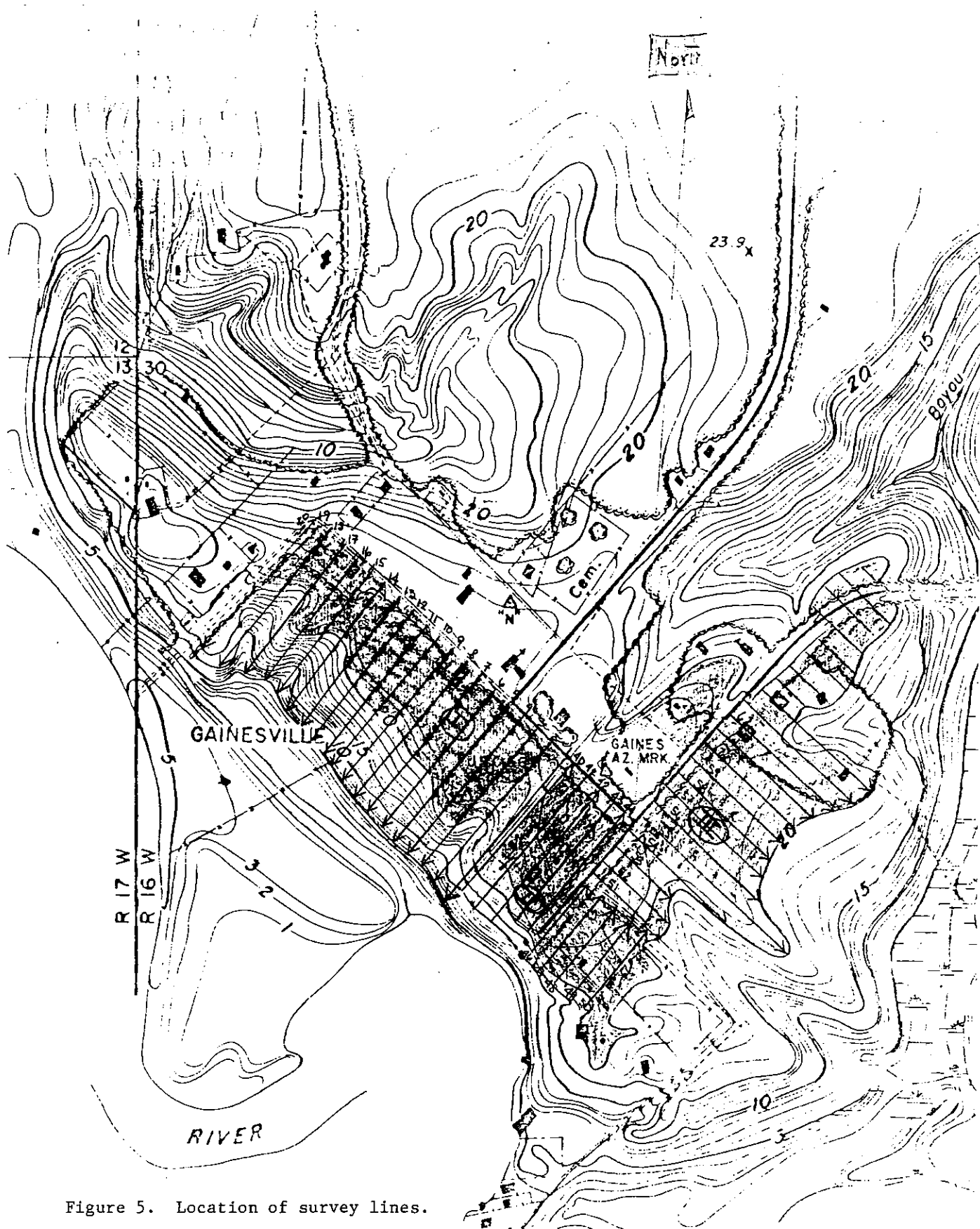


Figure 5. Location of survey lines.

### *Gridding and Mapping*

The north-south baseline was established through the center of the Courthouse square, running from the northwest corner of the intersection of Upper and Lower Gainesville Road to the visible edge of the old Center Road. The original street plat of 1837, which detailed both the street names of Gainesville and the inhabited blocks (Figure 3) was the basis for the surveying and excavation strategy. Stakes were placed at ten meter intervals along the 100 meter baseline. The baseline stakes began with 00N00E. Additional grid stakes were placed as needed in the desired areas of excavation. A USGS Benchmark of twenty-four feet elevation is located on the immediate site.

Ten units were located where initial subsurface probing revealed the largest concentration of bricks. These concentrations were found primarily to the west of the baseline. The grid system was extended from the baseline in a westerly direction to include these areas, and a series of one meter squares was staked out over these areas for excavation.

### *Stratigraphy*

The first square to be excavated was the stratigraphic unit which was randomly chosen along the baseline (designation 55N00E). The square was dug to a depth of 50 centimeters, in five 10 cm arbitrary levels (Figure 6). The site is mostly wooded and the soil is acidic; therefore, very little vegetation grows on the floor of the site's forest canopy. A thick humus zone approximately 5 cm thick composed of leaves, pine

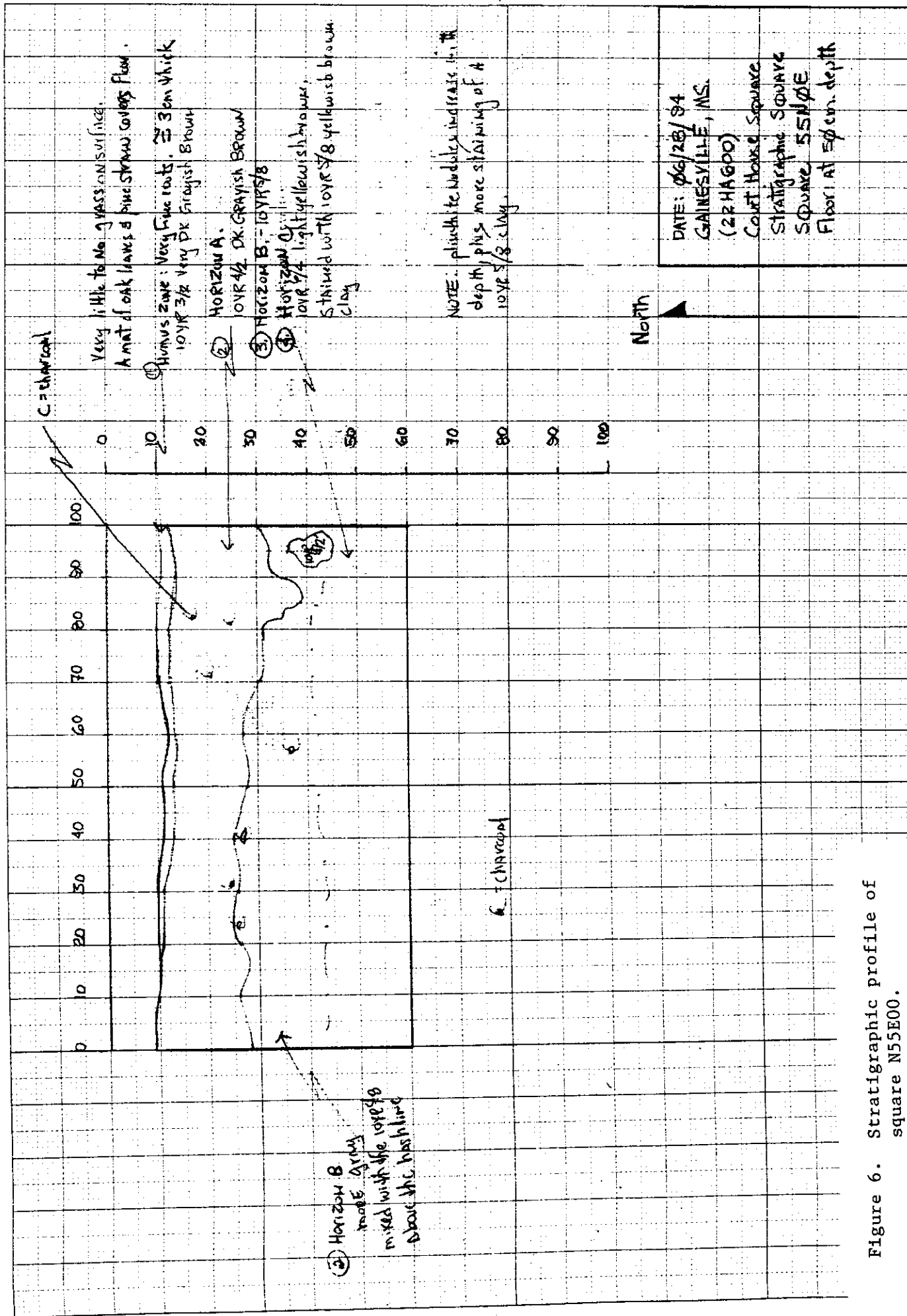


Figure 6. Stratigraphic profile of square N55E00.

straw, and fine roots covers the site. Beneath the humus zone, to a depth of 20-25 cm, is a dark gray A horizon. At about 25 cm the A horizon ends, and the soil becomes a lighter olive brown (2.5 Y 4/6). From 25 to 50 cm the deposits were sterile, in that all cultural artifacts were found only within the A horizon.

The soil found at the courthouse site is a member of the Harleston series (Soil Survey of Hancock County, Mississippi, 1981). Soils from the site were similar to the Escambia series soils, which consist of somewhat poorly drained soils formed by loamy materials on uplands. These soils are also gently sloping (0-5%). The site proved to be very poorly drained during the frequent rains that interrupted field work. Both Harleston and Escambia soils consist of fine sandy clay loam, with a dominantly gray stratum. A distinguishing feature between the two soil types is that Harleston soils do not have more than five percent ferrous oxide nodules in the B2t horizon, while Escambia soils do. The Munsell color measurements taken in the field mostly indicate the Harleston series soil, although at times, the colors varied between Harleston and Escambia soil descriptions. The soils in the stratigraphic test resemble more closely the Escambia soils, but in the northwest corner area of the site, the soil characteristics are closer to the Harleston series.

#### *Description of Excavation Units*

##### Unit X - 55NOE

##### Level I (0 - 10 cm):

The humus zone constitutes the first 5 cm of Level I. Beneath the humus zone,

is the *A* horizon which is a fine sandy clay loam (10YR5/1 gray to 10YR5/2 grayish brown) about 20-25 cm thick. Artifacts found in this level include fragments of glass bottles, ceramics, handmade bricks and charcoal. No cultural features were noted in this level.

**Level II (10 - 20 cm):**

This level is still within the *A* horizon, consisting of a fine sandy clay loam (10YR6/3 pale brown). Artifacts found include broken bottles, ceramics, and fragments of brick. The floor was cleaned off to reveal some charcoal but no features. The bottom of the *A* horizon ends at the floor of this level.

**Level III (20 - 30 cm):**

The soil color changes to a light yellow brown (10YR6/4). It is still made up of a fine sandy clay loam as it progresses into the *B2t* horizon. No artifacts were found in this level. A very small amount of natural orange clay, or very old dissolved brick, was noted in the level's floor. No features were seen in the cleaned floor at the bottom of this level.

**Level IV (30 - 40 cm):**

The soil remains a fine sandy clay loam (10YR6/4 light brownish gray) past the *B2t* horizon. No artifacts and no features were noted in the level or in the floor at 40 cm. A small trace of charcoal was seen in the floor of the level along with a little



natural orange clay, or very deteriorated orange brick.

**Level V (40 - 50 cm):**

The soil continued to be a fine sandy clay loam (10YR6/4 light brownish gray). This is the *B2t* horizon which remains sterile with no features noted in the cleaned floor at 50 cm.

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **SURVEY RESULTS AND SITE ASSESSMENTS**

#### **The Courthouse**

##### *Test Unit Descriptions*

A pedestrian survey was conducted in the Courthouse Square, designated in recent plats as Tract #304, following the baseline established in the center of the site. Several recent trash piles, containing glass and tin cans probably associated with the last residence of this property, were found during this survey. Tract # 304 was occupied by Lloyd and Nellie M. Jones, who lived in a small wood frame house on cement blocks located on the courthouse square. It was built in the late 1950's and was referred to as a fishing cabin until its removal in 1963.

Broken bricks were scattered across most of the site. During the site survey, subsurface tests confirmed the findings made in the stratigraphic unit that all cultural material, especially brick pillars, were located at a depth of 25 cm or less.

The largest concentration of bricks found during the survey was located west of the baseline. Two areas in particular were chosen for more detailed excavation. One heavy concentration of brick was found in the northwest corner of the site, and the second area was located south of it, near the west-central part of the site.

Thirteen one-meter squares were excavated in the Courthouse square. The areas of excavation were concentrated along the western half of the site. These areas of excavation are referred to as the northwest and southwest corners (Figure 7).

1994 EXCAVATIONS  
 GAINESVILLE COURT HOUSE  
 22 HA 600  
 BASE MAP  
 \* UNITS NUMBERED IN SEQUENCE  
 OF EXCAVATION

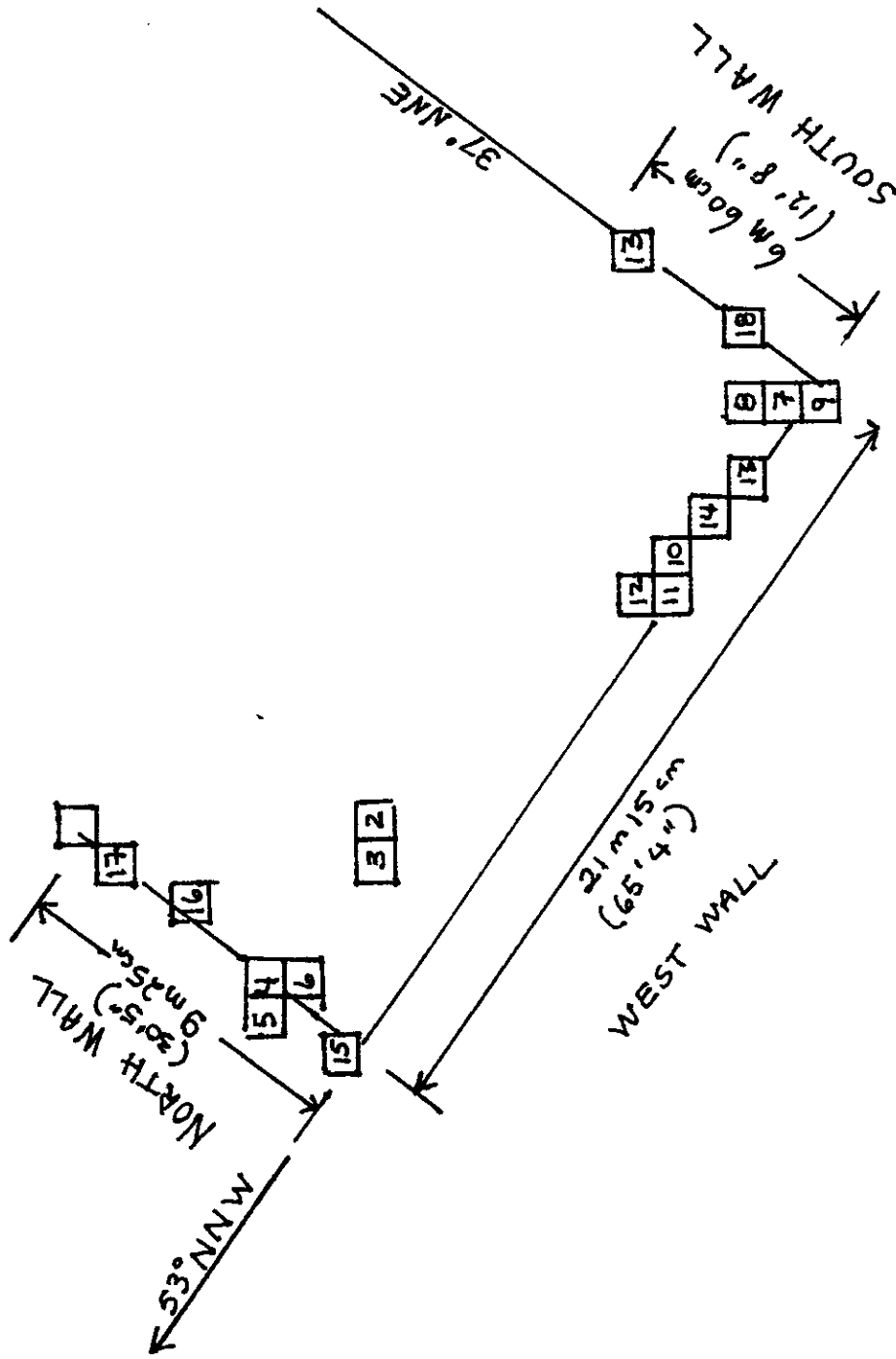


Figure 7. Location of test units within the Gainesville Courthouse Square.

\*NOTE: An error was made in labeling some of the squares. This problem was corrected for this report, but the photographic archive still contains the errant information on the chalkboard. The following information documents the corrections:

GAINESVILLE 922-HA-600  
THE COURTHOUSE SQUARE  
THE NORTHWEST CORNER AREA

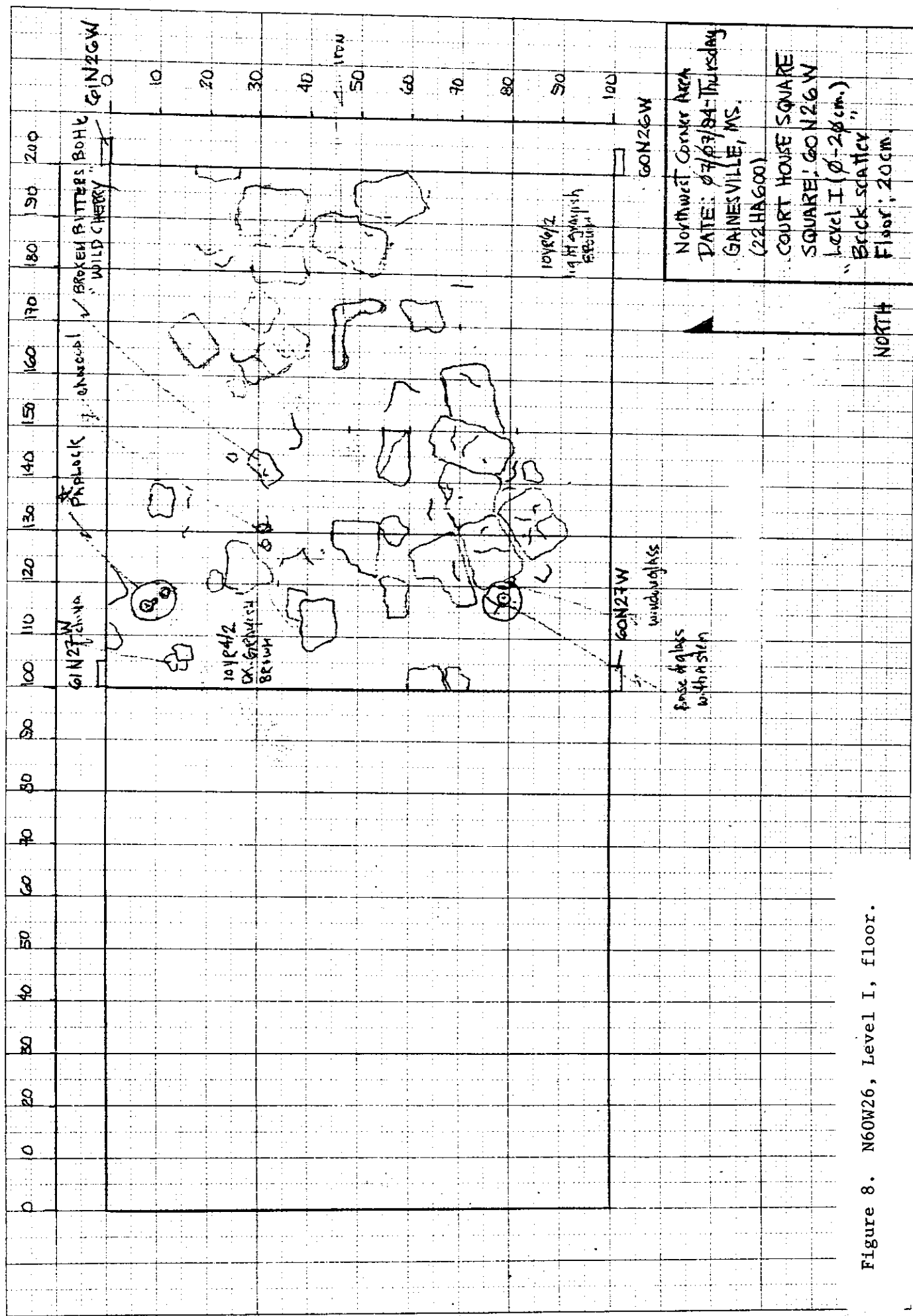
EXCAVATION SEQUENCE	INCORRECT SQUARE #	CORRECTED SQUARE #
#2	N77W30	60N26W
#3	N77W31	62N27W
#4	N79W33	62N29W
#5	N79W34	62N30W
#6	N78W33	61N29W
#15	N77W35	60N31W
#16	N81W31	64N27W
#17	N88W30	66N26W

*Northwest Corner Area*

During the beginning survey of the site a large scatter of bricks was found in the northwest area of the site. Two 1 x 1 meter squares were initially excavated here.

**60N26W:**

The first square to be excavated in the northwest corner area was 60N26W . Excavation of level I (0-20 cm) exposed a large deposit of broken bricks. Artifacts found in this level include broken window glass, bottle glass including a broken bitters bottle, ceramics, square nails, and a large square nail or spike. One large rusty padlock was discovered at a depth of 15 cm (plate 3). Most of the handmade bricks were largely fractured and scattered about with no distinct pattern (Figure 8).



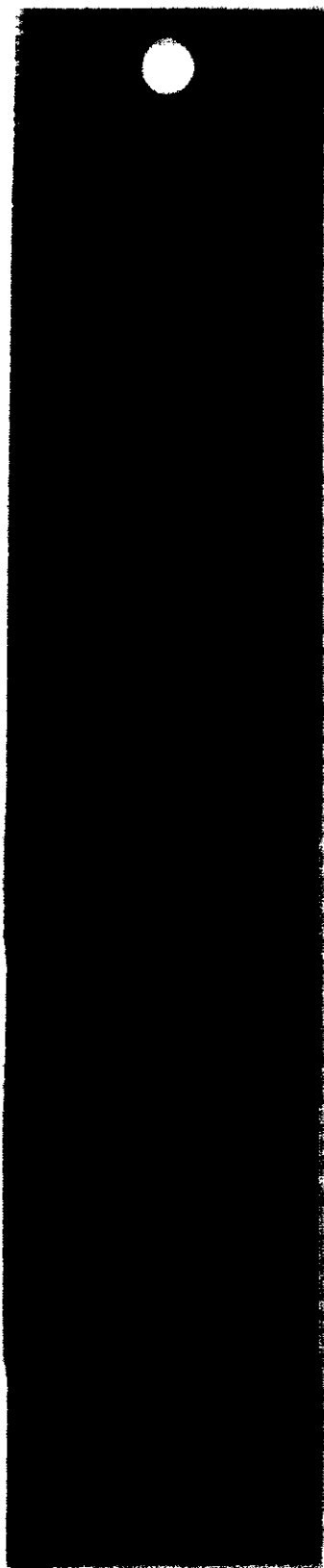


Plate 3. Padlock from N60W26.

#### **60N27W:**

In square 60N27W , level I (0-20 cm) was excavated to expose the brick scatter to the west. Artifacts found included one large round lead shot at a depth of 9 cm, several square nails, broken bottle glass, broken ceramics, window glass, and a large number of broken handmade bricks, which were not arranged in a distinguishable pattern. Charcoal and ash were noted in the floor at 20 cm.

Finding no whole bricks in these first test units, excavation was moved further northwest where several whole bricks had been found in close proximity. Three 1 m squares (62N29W, 62N30W, and 61N29W) were opened to expose what appeared to be a pillar.

#### **62N29W:**

Excavation of Level I (0-20 cm) exposed several unbroken bricks laid out in a distinct pattern. A total of six whole bricks were found, with two protruding into the southwest wall. The pattern of the bricks suggested a possible pillar. Artifacts associated in this level were square nails (some rusted together), broken bottles, including the broken base of a dark green, pontil-marked wine bottle, and ceramics. Charcoal and ash were also noted in the floor at 20 cm.

#### **62N30W:**

Level I (0-20 cm) was opened to the west of the brick pillar in an attempt to gain more information on this possible structure. Earlier probing revealed what was

thought to be whole bricks, but, upon excavation, none were found intact. Only a few broken handmade brick fragments were discovered. Artifacts found in this level include broken window glass, bottle glass, ceramics, and square nails. Numerous square nails were found more than in the previous test units. Two different sizes of round lead shot were found, along with one broken stem of a tobacco pipe. Soil color of the floor at 20 cm. was a light olive brown (2.5YR5/3), mixed with a grayish-brown, fine, sandy clay loam (2.5YR5/2). Also some natural orange clay, or very decomposed brick, was seen in the floor of the level. Along the western side of the square in the floor, parallel to the brick pillar, a line of charcoal with a few rusty nails was discovered -- possibly indicating the decayed remains of a burned piece of wood. Charcoal was also scattered across the floor at 20 cm.

Level II (20-30 cm) was excavated to see if the pipe stem previously found in the dry-screening of the level I matrix was an indication of pre-Gainesville French occupation. The soil at 20 cm, beneath the dark gray *A* horizon and at the base of the previously found brick pillar, was the beginning of the *B* horizon, a light olive brown (2.5YR5/3) soil consisting primarily of a fine, sandy clay loam. The level proved to be largely sterile, except for several large sections in the floor stained by charcoal and rusted metal.

#### **61N29W:**

Level I (0-20 cm) exposed the whole bricks protruding into this unit from N62W29. Due to persisting rain, the soil from this unit initially had to be washed



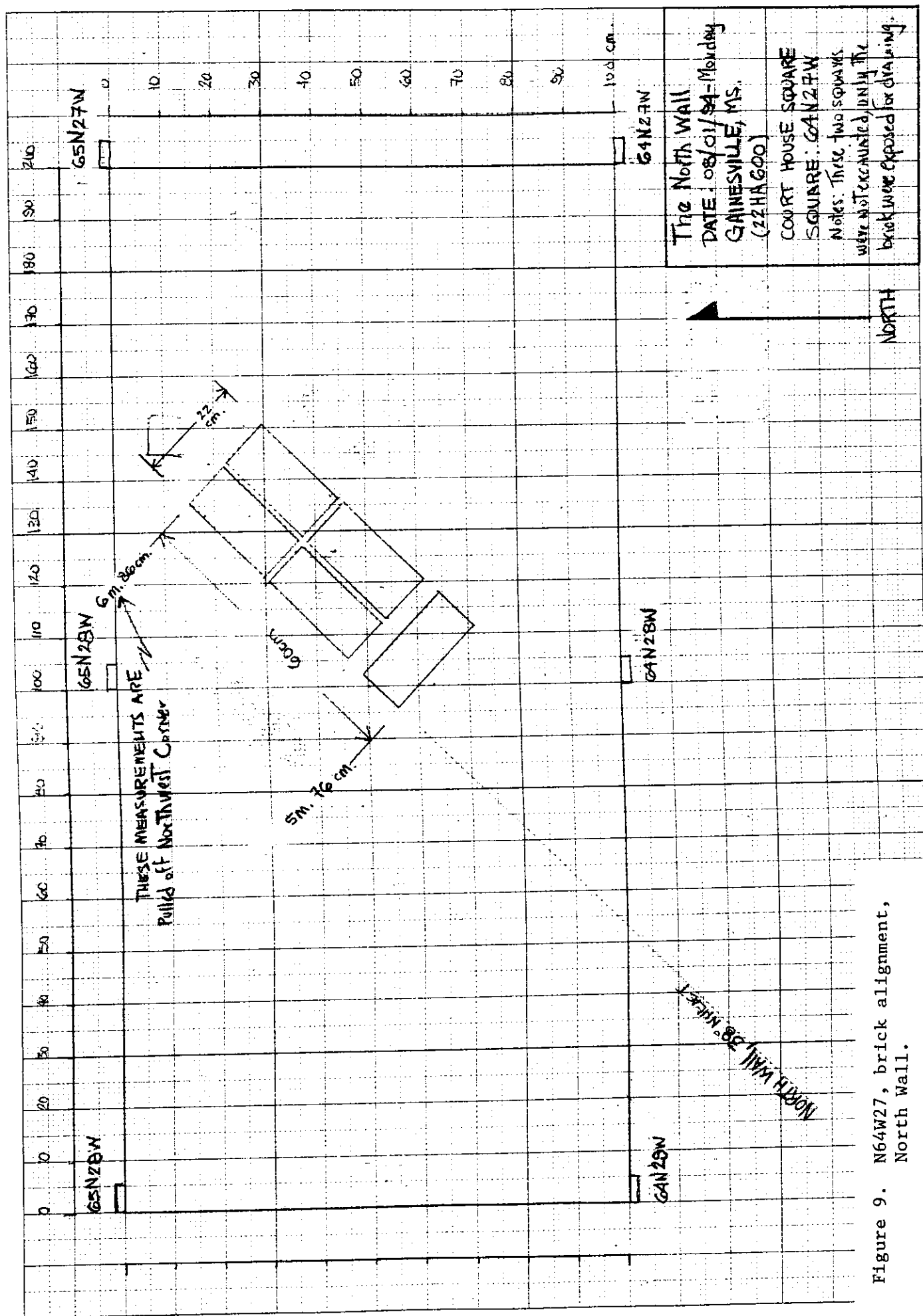
through a 1/4" screen. The bricks were noted to be pushed down, probably due to the roots of a young white oak located in the south half of the square itself. Artifacts found included broken window glass, bottle glass (another broken base of a pontil dark-green wine bottle), ceramics, crockery, and square nails. Charcoal was noticed in the floor at 20 cm.

### *The North Wall*

The following three squares were not fully excavated; only the bricks were located and exposed directly beneath the surface. The remaining whole bricks were found by probing, and the bricks were exposed to trace the north wall from its northwest corner toward the east. This particular field season proved to be too rainy and wet for thorough investigation. Future excavation during a dryer season should be carried out to expose this wall and to obtain the true width of the north wall of the courthouse. These two squares have no field excavation descriptions, only brief notes and field drawings of the area.

#### **64N27W:**

This square had five bricks laid in a repetitive pattern commonly seen in the exposed portions of the brick wall footing. Two bricks were laid down lengthwise. Two more bricks were laid down end-to-end, with the fifth brick laid down perpendicular to the other four. This pattern made up the base for the brick wall footing up to the corner (Figure 9).



#### 66N26W:

This unit contained the last whole bricks presently known, representing the eastern end of the north wall. No bricks were found east of this line. The same pattern existed as described above: four bricks laid end-to-end, two abreast, with the fifth brick laid perpendicular at the end. Future archaeological work is needed to clarify the location of the northeast corner.

#### *The Southwest Corner Area*

The second largest concentration of bricks was found near the center of the western half of the site. An area of broken brick, with several whole handmade bricks, was found during earlier subsurface tests. A one-meter square was laid down in this area, with two additional units on the north and south sides to obtain a clearer perspective of the brick scatter. Excavations revealed the second pillar which later proved to be the southwest corner of this structure.

#### 48N15W:

This test unit was the first located in this area. Level I (0-20 cm) contained a large number of broken and fractured bricks. Other artifacts found were broken window glass, bottle glass, ceramics, turpentine pot fragments, square nails, and mortar. Charcoal and gray ash were noted in the floor and beneath some of the broken bricks (Figure 10).

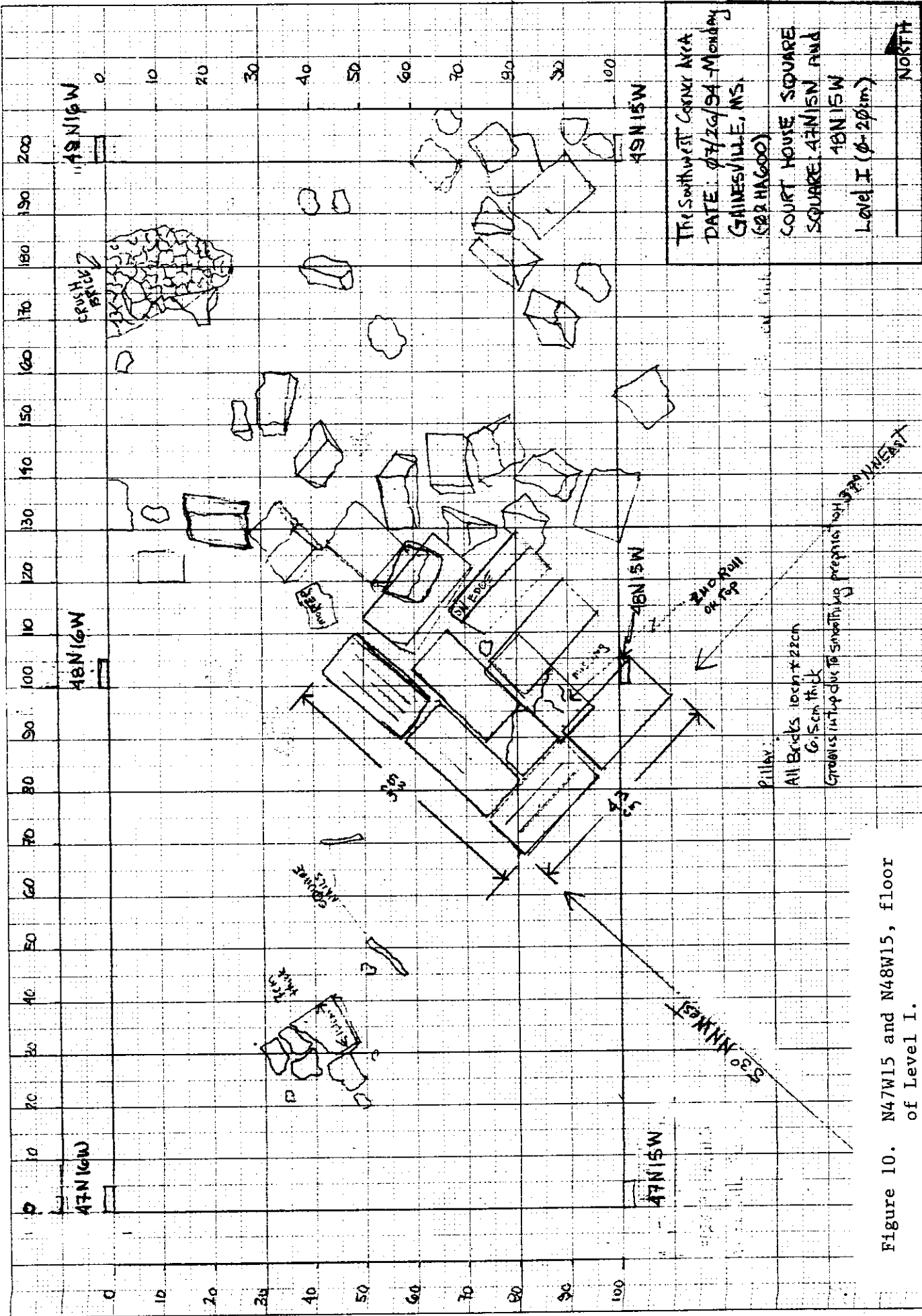


Figure 10. N47W15 and N48W15, floor of Level I.

#### 49N15W:

Level I (0-20 cm) was excavated along the north side of the brick scatter. A larger, more concentrated pile of fractured, broken brick was discovered. Several artifacts, including broken window glass, square nails, and mortar, were mixed with the brick scatter. One prehistoric lithic flake was found at a depth of five cm. Charcoal, gray ash, and a few square nails were seen in the floor beneath the broken brick. The heaviest concentration of mortar found during this field work came from this square.

#### 47N15W:

Level I (0-20 cm) of this unit was located along the south side where two whole bricks were initially found. Excavation revealed a group of nine and a half whole bricks laid down in a pattern that initially was thought to be a second foundation pillar. Subsequently, this was discovered to be the southwest corner of a brick wall footing. Artifacts found were broken window glass, bottle glass, ceramics, and square nails. The top of these bricks were only 12 cm below the surface. Charcoal, ash, and iron staining were noted in the floor at 20 cm (Figure 10).

#### *The West Wall*

Following the discovery of the second wall, a line was pulled across the west face of the north and south walls. Several areas of whole brick were found between the two, but no distinct pillars were found. More bricks were found near the first pillar,

located at 53 degrees NNW. This feature appears to be the northeast corner of the courthouse. In the next five squares, the continued presence of bricks established that the foundation for the west wall of the building had been found.

**51N19W:**

This square was opened to expose the longest span of whole bricks of what appears to be, the west wall of the courthouse. This wall was traced through the corner of three different squares. Due to the weather, all the soil from level I (0-20 cm) was washed through a 1/4" screen. Artifacts found were broken bottle glass, ceramics, square nails, and broken bricks. Charcoal and ash were noted in the floor at 20 cm. All the artifacts were found within the dark gray soil of the *A* horizon (Figure 11).

**51N20W:**

Level I (0-20 cm) of this unit was opened to expose the brick pattern. The soil was washed through a 1/4" screen. The artifacts found were broken window glass, bottle glass, ceramics, square nails, and fractured bricks, and several metal objects which appeared to be door hardware. Charcoal and ash were noted in the floor at 20 cm. All the artifacts were found within the dark gray soil of the *A* horizon (Figure 11).

**52N20W:**

Level I (0-20 cm) of this unit was opened to expose the end of the largest span of bricks found. The soil was washed through a 1/4" screen. Artifacts found were

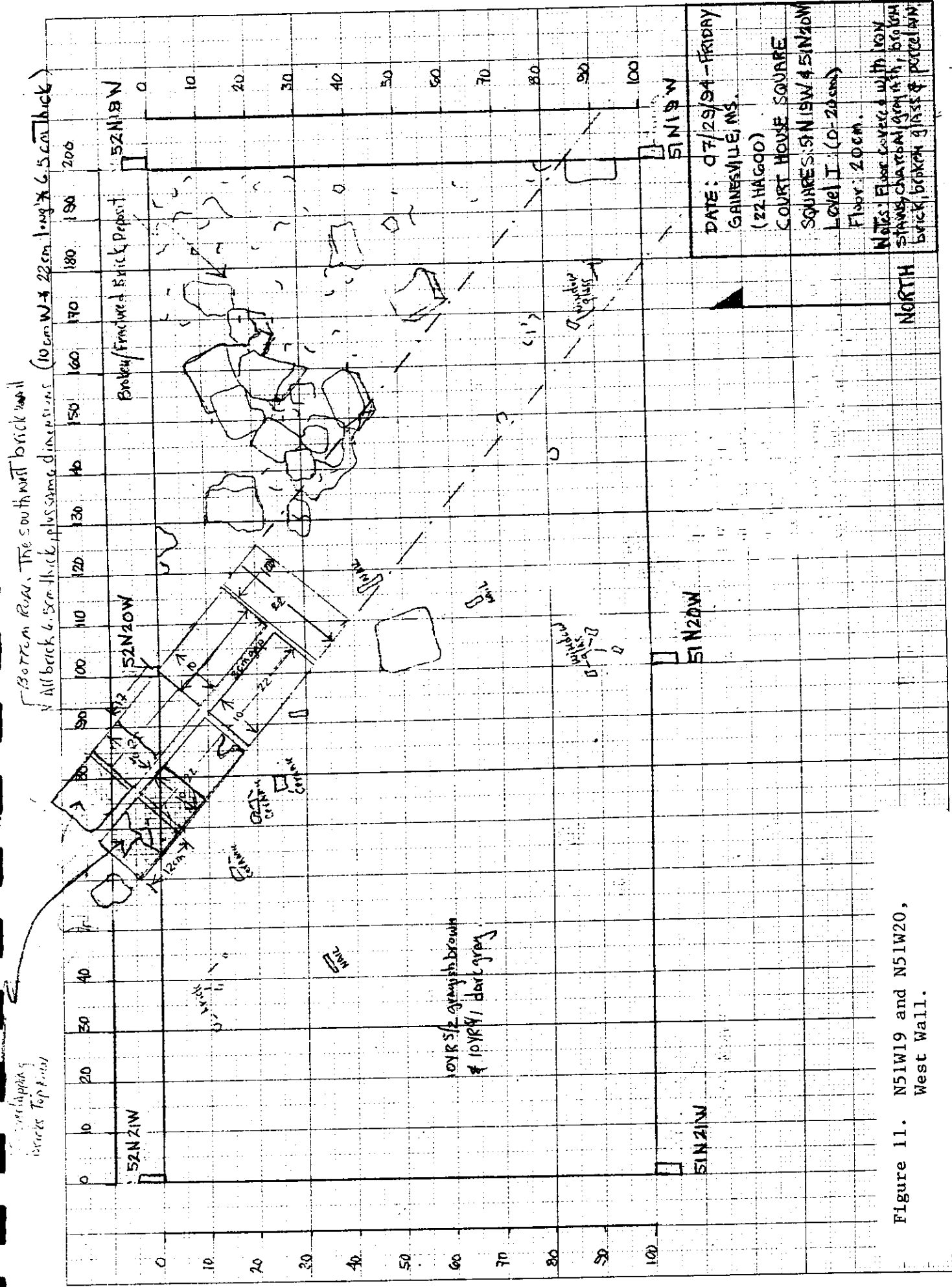


Figure 11. N51W19 and N51W20, West Wall.

broken bottle glass, ceramics, square nails, broken and fractured bricks, and a whole brick. All artifacts were found in the dark gray *A* horizon.

#### 49N17W:

Level I (0-20 cm) from this square exposed two handmade bricks laid side-by-side lengthwise with a third brick laid perpendicular to the first two. A portion of a broken fourth brick was also noted. The soil was washed through a 1/4" screen. The artifacts found include broken bottle glass, ceramics, square nails, and fractured bricks. All artifacts were found in the dark gray *A* horizon.

#### 50N18W:

Level I (0-20 cm) from this square was opened to expose the full length of the west wall foundation. The area showed prior disturbance. No whole bricks were found, only broken or fractured bricks. The soil was washed through a 1/4" screen. The artifacts found were typical of the site and included broken bottle glass, ceramics, and square nails. All artifacts were found in the dark gray *A* horizon.

#### *The South Wall*

The south wall of the courthouse was found by following the angle of the southeast corner of the foundation towards the northeast. The full length of the south wall or the width of this structure is presently not known. Several broken bricks were found along this south wall, but only three whole bricks in sequence were found directly near



the southeast corner. The southeast corner of this brick structure was never found. Only two areas were found to contain bricks along this wall, and they were not excavated due to the weather and time limitations. These bricks were only exposed for recording.

#### 49N13W:

Three whole bricks were found laid end-to-end along what is thought to be the south wall. The rest of the bricks were previously removed (Figure 12).

#### 52N11W:

This unit, which is essentially a large mass of overturned, broken brick, was the furthest found extension of the south wall foundation. Artifacts found were broken bottle glass, ceramics, and one blue marble. Probing a compacted area of the soil in the test unit revealed no more whole bricks, indicating that the corner had been found.

#### *The East Wall*

The east wall of the courthouse was never found during this field season. Probing in the most likely area did not produce any whole bricks. Through time, the bricks of the courthouse foundation were probably salvaged for another construction project in the Gainesville area. The east wall would have approached the large live oak tree presently located in the center of the square. This may have kept the wall more exposed through time and, therefore, more easily salvaged. On the other hand, the

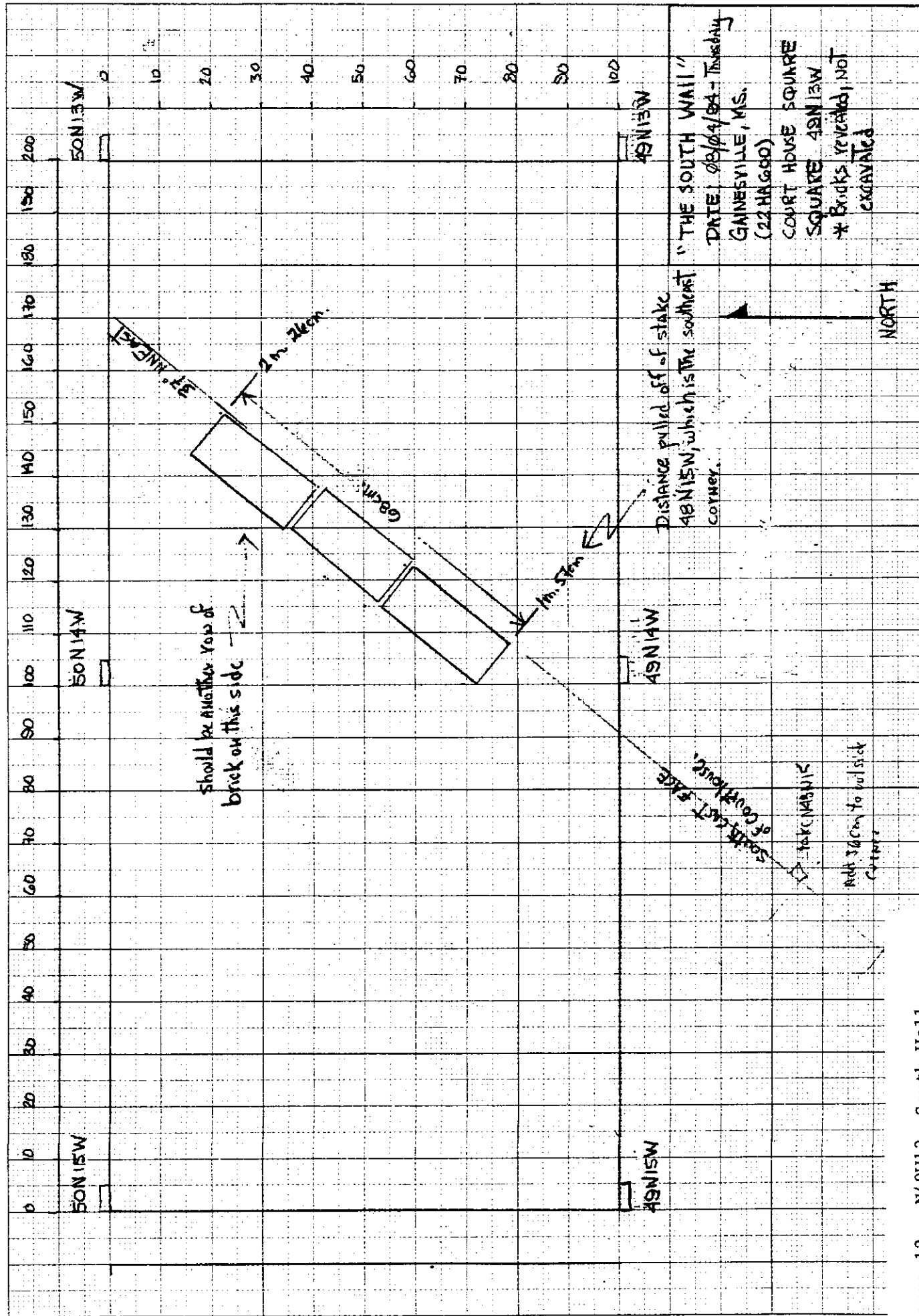


Figure 12. N49W13, South Wall.

courthouse may have only had three walls built on solid brick footings, while the rear section of the building was open for storage or ventilation. Future archaeological work could resolve this question.

### *Summary*

The 1994 archaeological field work at the Gainesville Courthouse Square has successfully located a foundation believed to be that of the courthouse. Research and oral history from historic Gainesville confirm that no pre-1950 structure was built on this square after the courthouse burned in 1853. The portions of the brick foundation found, made of handmade bricks similar to those manufactured in the early 1800's, support the date for the construction of the courthouse in 1846.

During the archaeological field work, thirteen 1 x 1 meter units revealing portions of a solid brick wall foundation were excavated. The longest wall found to date was the west wall, which, from corner to corner, is 21 m 15 cm (69' 4") in length. The orientation of the west wall is 53 degrees NNW off the southeast corner. Furthermore, portions of the north and south walls were found. The orientation of both the north and south walls is 37 degrees NNE. Remains of the north wall measure 9 m 25 cm (30' 5") in length, and the remnants of the south wall are 6 m 60 cm (21' 8") long. The eastern corner of the structure was not at either the north or the south wall junctions. Consequently, the exact width of this structure is presently not known.

The foundation of this structure appears to have been a solid brick wall, two bricks in width. These bricks were laid down side-by-side along their long axis. The

common pattern was six bricks laid down, two abreast lengthwise, with the seventh brick laid down perpendicular to the others. This pattern was repeated until the corner was reached. No mortar was used for the brick foundation. Only in two cases did excavation reveal a second row of bricks located upon the first. All bricks appeared to date to the early 1800's. They were very bulky, handmade bricks and measured 22 cm long, 10 cm wide, and 6.5 cm thick.

Only portions of the brick wall foundation have been found. The existing foundation is sufficiently preserved to distinguish three of the four supposed walls. Unfortunately, only the fully-preserved west wall allows estimates of a wall's length. The preserved portions of the north and south wall give a possible hint of the building's width. Bottle collectors using metal detectors are known to have searched through the area. Such activity may have disturbed the foundation remains. Many of the bricks may have been salvaged for other purposes. Similar bricks are found on the surface throughout the Gainesville site.

Future archaeological field work should attempt to find the remaining foundation wall of this structure. It is also necessary to test a large concave depression located northwest of the courthouse square. This may have been the jail that was described as a hole dug into the ground and covered with a wood structure (Hancock County Board of Supervisors Minutes Book, A:26). A jail of such description was associated with the courthouse, but time was not allotted to test this hypothesis during the 1994 field season. Also, the remaining eastern portion of the courthouse square should be tested for structures that may have been associated with

the courthouse.

The objective of this project was to search for the foundation pillars of the Gainesville courthouse. To have found the lowest row of bricks from the courthouse foundation so well preserved, exceeded this project's expectations, since it was felt that recent historic disturbances could have destroyed most of the original foundation. It is now believed that there is a high probability that the archaeological deposits of the Courthouse Square are still well preserved and will provide more meaningful data if scientific excavations resume in the future.

## **CHAPTER 7**

### **PHASE I SURVEY OF THE STUDY AREA**

#### *Introduction*

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and by request of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Office of John C. Stennis Space Center initiated on August 15, 1994, an archaeological survey of the Gainesville area. The purpose of this survey was to assess the significance of and to develop recommendations for the management and future treatment of cultural resources within the Gainesville area.

Aside from recovering the foundation of the Gainesville courthouse, this survey is the first phase of an archaeological testing program within Stennis Space Center that attempts to locate buried and preserved archaeological deposits of historic importance. Preserved archaeological deposits such as building foundations, trash pits, wells, and privies can yield valuable information regarding Gainesville's history. Shovel testing in the area located and recorded historic deposits as well as prehistoric deposits.

#### *Methodology*

The archaeological survey consisted of shovel testing on projected survey lines spaced at 15 meter intervals throughout historic Gainesville. Test contents were sieved through a 1/4" screen as they were removed from the test pit. Each test pit was 50 cm<sup>3</sup>. The stratigraphy was recorded from each test pit, and a list of artifacts found

during each test was recorded. Areas found to be archaeologically significant were marked in the field for eventual relocation.

A street plat from 1837 recorded the names of the town streets and labeled the squares alphabetically within Gainesville (Figure 2). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 1962 topographic map of the Mississippi Test Facility recorded all standing house structures which existed in the area before the town was removed in 1963 to accommodate the NASA facility (Figure 13). Both the street plat and the topographic map were used to plan the shovel testing survey.

The survey area was divided into seven sections, which were labeled I to VII (Figure 5). Although overgrown due to disuse, the original streets which separated the town squares, as seen on the 1837 street plat, were visible. The identification of the town's streets made it easy to identify the location of each town square. Each square could then be referred to by the letter indicated on the original street plat of 1837. This made the identification of each line of the survey more efficient and produced more accurate recordings of the town's occupation sites.

### *Stratigraphy*

Each individual shovel test that was recorded can be compared to the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Manual, Soil Survey of Hancock County, Mississippi (1978). The historic and cultural components within the whole Gainesville area are basically very shallow. Artifacts are found within the dark gray *A* horizon and parts of the *B* horizon which together extend between 20 and 30 cm deep.

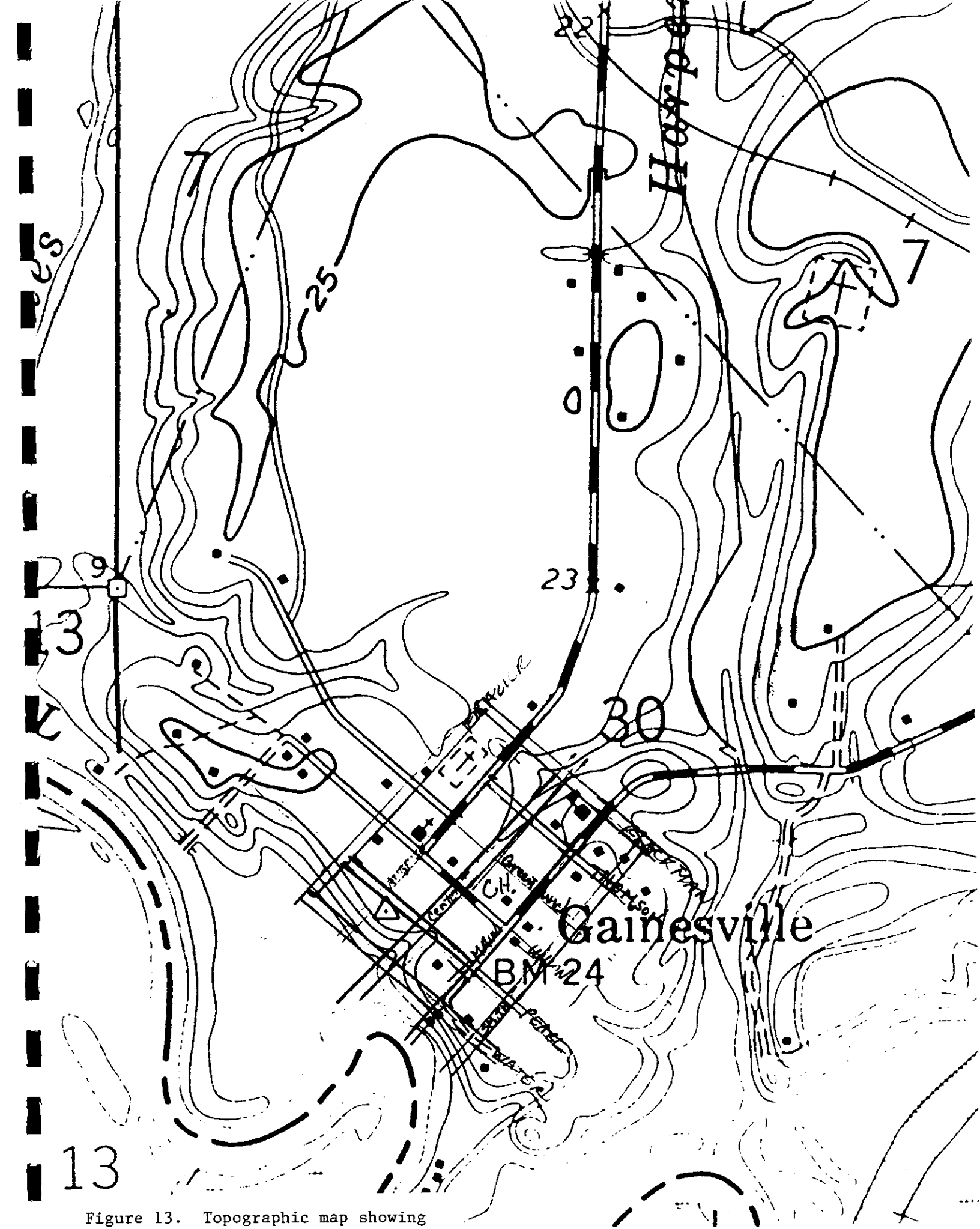


Figure 13. Topographic map showing 1963 buildings.



Below the *B* horizon the test units usually consist of sterile strata.

### *Survey Results*

The town site was divided into several different sections for testing (see Figure 5). During the course of the survey, Sections I and II were completed for the western portion, which completely covered the river frontage of the historic town site of Gainesville. This river frontage was anticipated to be a prime area for occupation, given the importance of the town in river commerce during the 19th century. Additionally, prehistoric occupations in this region are often located on river terraces.

For these reasons, we developed a sampling strategy that combines stratified and systematic testing. The shovel testing was concentrated above the 20 foot contour line. However, all survey lines were walked to the river edge, or bottom land, whenever possible to record visible historic deposits and foundations.

Section III was also started during the 1994 survey. This section covers the southeastern portion of the town site along the Harper's Bayou area. Although Section III was not entirely completed during this survey due to the limited time, half of Section III was fully surveyed.

#### **SECTION I:**

Section I began at the corner of Union Street and Center Street, in the northeast corner of Square H. The streets appear to be laid out 40 degrees south-southwest by 40 degrees north-northeast. Survey line #1 began on the south side of Union Street and

continued 40 degrees south-southwest toward the East Pearl River.

Each survey line ran parallel to the streets of the 1837 town street plat. On an average, five lines covered a single square. Each square recorded on the 1837 plat was 250 feet in length across the frontage, which faces the river, and 200 feet in width.

A total of four Squares (E, F, G, and H) are located on the high ground within section I; also, portions of two additional unlabeled squares are located in the low bottom land between these Squares and the river. There is also a broad piece of land located to the north-northwest of Squares F and G which runs along the East Pearl River up to Mike's River. This area was incorporated as Gainesville as noted in the Gainesville Advocate in 1845. This entire area was included into Section I.

A total of five lines crossed Squares H and E and were numbered from 1 to 5. Almost every test within these squares produced cultural artifacts, but most cultural deposits were located along the frontage of Square H as it faces both Union Street and Main Street. Typical artifacts found in this area include square nails, broken bricks, bottle glass, ceramics, and crockery. Line #2, test #1, which was near the frontage of Union Street contained a brass cartridge which could date from the late 1800's.

Along the middle of Square H on line #3 (where it fronts Pearl Street) test holes #4 and #5 showed broken bricks scattered on the surface. A very recent trash scatter, consisting of tin cans, clear glass with screw tops, and corrugated tin, was found on the surface. Screening revealed both round and square nails, large pieces of ceramics, bottle glass (dark green, clear, and blue), and one prehistoric pottery sherd.

This general area had a lot of gravel on the surface which indicated a possible driveway coming from Pearl Street. Possibly a structure, either a house or a barn, existed in this area between 1950 and 1960. The presence of prehistoric pottery suggests the need for more archaeological testing in this area. Closer examination of Square H reveals that it was sectioned off into eight different subsections. Four different lots faced Center Street and were expected to be areas of dense occupation.

Square E proved to be a highly productive area, especially along the river terrace. This area revealed broken brick scatter on the surface, and the screened materials contained ceramics, square nails, broken brick, bottle glass (clear, dark green, and aqua), and charcoal. It is highly probable that a house structure existed in this area in the early 1800's. Also in the northwest corner of Square E near the edge of Ambrose Street is a brick pile 3 meters in length and 2 meters in width that may have been pushed up by a bulldozer. It is composed of very early handmade bricks.

Two large brick deposits are located at the end of lines #2 and #3 within Square E below the river terrace (the end of the 20 foot contour line). These were possibly brick foundations for steam engines used at the Poitevent Dry Dock. One in particular was noted on the 1837 street plat. This was also the location of Water Street where it curved to meet Ambrose Street. The location was on the edge of the public landing and wharf, where the steamboats and ferry docked in the early 1840's until the 1880's. The Poitevent Dry Dock was an active steamboat manufacturer. In proximity to the brick foundation were large cast iron pieces --possibly parts of an old steam engine, boiler, or boat. Scrap pieces of iron, copper, tar, and coal deposits were found

in this area.

In mid-September, 1995, Dr. Tom Sever conducted an additional pedestrian survey along the Pearl River to investigate whether there were any surviving features or artifacts from the steamboat landing, brickyard, lumber mill, and dry-dock. The Pearl River had receded at this time and the low-lying areas, could be investigated. The following survey results were obtained.

- A channel of water, which could be the canal once used by the Poitevent's steam line for the loading of brick, could be seen in the same area as indicated on Drake's Plat. Although water was still in the channel it was obvious that the channel had been heavily silted over the decades.
- Between the steamboat landing and the lumber mill indicated on Drake's Plat was a heavy concentration of bricks. In addition, three mounds 1 to 2 1/2 feet tall, were located in this area. These could be the remnants of Poitevent's kilns. Similar features are known from excavations of an early 1800's site in Springfield, Illinois (Sever, Personal Communication, 1995). Although the mounds appear to be kiln remnants, only excavation will be able to determine this fact. During the survey, no intact bricks were found, but hundreds of broken bricks could be seen scattered on the sloping surface. In addition, no diagnostic features were found on any of the brick fragments. Analysis of the brick remains suggest that they are over 100 years old.
- No evidence could be found of the lumber mill during this phase of the survey.
- No evidence could be found of the public steamboat landing. It should be

mentioned that this area and the lumber mill area have been significantly disturbed over the years.

- The ship yard, or dry-dock area, can still be seen as an inlet leading from the Pearl River. This inlet is located in the same area identified on Drake's Plat as the "Ship Yard." It is obvious that this inlet has been dredged and maintained over the years.

The edge of Square E on the river's terrace and the bottom land immediately below it were deemed high probability areas for both historic and prehistoric cultural deposits. Both types of deposits were discovered, as predicted, in this locality.

Prehistoric pottery sherds were found in several tests excavated in Square E. On line #3, as it crossed Pearl Street into Square E, pottery sherds were found in both tests #6 and #7, and, as noted earlier, also in Square H directly across from Pearl Street. On line #4, test #9, along the river terrace, plain clay-tempered sherds and a flint flake were found. Fifteen meters near the end of line #5 on the river terrace edge, test holes #8 and #9 produced prehistoric artifacts. Test #8 produced two sherds of unfired, plain clay ware. Test #9 produced a very dark soil with a small quantity of small river clams, four pieces of prehistoric pottery sherds, and two pieces of kaolin tobacco pipe stems. These deposits could represent the remains of an important contact period midden, and future archaeological work is recommended.

Squares G and F consisted of line numbers 6 - 9. Line #10 was found to be running directly down Frazier Street and was not tested. The 1837 street plat noted that the squares were subdivided in quarter sections, which may explain the artifact

distribution as indicated by the shovel tests. Square G showed cultural evidence: artifacts and tinted soil on the frontage near Union Street and Ambrose Street in the northeast corner. The interior of Square G, near the extreme center, produced a very low-lying area that was generally wet and void of artifacts. The northeast quarter and the southeast quarter where surveyed by lines #6 and #7 and revealed broken brick, square nails, ceramics, and broken bottle glass. Unmarked orange flagging tape, surmised to be a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers marker, was found near the center of the square near the northwest corner of the southeast quarter. This particular area of the southeast quarter may have been the location of an early house site since there are comparatively more square nails, as well as broken brick, bottle glass, ceramics, and one ceramic doll leg.

The northwest quarter of Square G revealed remains of several different fence lines. There was still a standing wood structure, which was once a small shed. There was a large amount of tin scattered that appeared to be the remains of early kerosene heaters. Artifacts were scattered over a broad area. A huge concave depression was found to contain materials (mostly glass and tin cans) from the 1940 - 1960 era. A huge brick pile consisting of cement pillars, tin, and metal was pushed up near the center of the square. This brick pile may have been the foundation of a recent house site.

Square F, along the river terrace, like Square E, proved to be extremely productive. Tests running from the southwest corner to the northwest corner revealed the broken brick, square nails, ceramics, crockery, and bottle glass. Prehistoric pottery

sherds and flint flakes were also found along this terrace. Also found was a metal flagging stake numbered #538 and assumed to be a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cultural site marker. The soil in the *A* horizon and the *B* horizon was much darker and indicated intensive cultural occupation. Broken bricks were scattered on the surface in the southeast corner. Both historic and prehistoric occupations are indicated in this area. This particular area, which is a slightly higher knoll, displayed a plentiful source of bright orange clay located at a shallow depth.

Facing Square F was Water Street, which is still very much visible. The slope descended to a broad point of wetland made up of several old river channels. The geological history of the East Pearl River indicated westward migration in this area. Along this slope, testing revealed evidence of the same dry dock activity that was centered in front of Square E. Several large pieces of cast iron and metal were seen on the surface, and shovel testing revealed tar, coal, copper, glass, and ceramics. Also a few prehistoric sherds were found down slope near the southeast corner of Square F.

The next portion of Section I was not labeled on the 1837 street plat. It was located beyond this street plat within an area that was incorporated as Gainesville in 1846, as noted in the Gainesville Advocate (Saturday, March 28, 1846, no. XLVI):

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, that the town of Gainesville, in the county of Hancock, is hereby incorporated, and that the limits of said incorporation shall be as follow, to-wit: Beginning at the junction of Mike's River with the east branch of the Pearl River, running up the said Mike's River to where the northern boundary line of lands owned by the heirs of D. McLaughlin crosses said river; thence across said line east to the northeast corner of said land; thence south until it strikes Pearl River; thence up said river to the beginning.

This extended portion of Gainesville consisted of lines #11 - #20. Further outside this 1837 street plat, the density of typical artifacts diminished dramatically. The area between Squares F and G and the present-day Cypress House was apparently void of the typical 1840 - 1900 artifact assemblage. In the extreme northeast corner of section I, two historic structures are shown on the 1962 U.S. Army Corps map. Traces of fence line subdividing this area were still present, and trash scatter from the 1950 - 1960 era was evident on the ground surface.

Prehistoric artifacts were again found along the end of line #11, test #7, on the terrace ridge bordering the East Pearl River. Several pieces of prehistoric pottery made on clay-tempered ware and two very small lithic drills were found. These finds may indicate a prehistoric campsite along the terrace ridge. At the end of lines #18, #19, and #20 was an isolated portion of the terrace ridge which was set off on both ends by drainage. A metal flag in the ground numbered #546 is assumed to be a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers marker. This ridge was clearly used by prehistoric people as revealed by artifacts such as pottery and flint flakes.

Lines #20 and #21 completed the survey of Section I. Shovel testing began on the north side of the tennis court and followed the river terrace ridge back toward the Cypress House (a NASA building). A road was discovered along the ridge in this area consisting of shells, probably Rangia cuneata, and gravel deposits. Also a heavy fill seems to have been brought in for the construction of the tennis court. A house or other structure appeared to have been cleared by pushing them down the slope. Cultural artifacts revealed occupations largely from the 1950 - 1960 time period.



The old road found along the ridge slopes gradually northward into the bottom swamp adjacent to Mike's River. Another road headed to the left along Mike's River reaches the confluence with the East Pearl River. Near this confluence several small boat slips were found to be dug into the river bank. This was the general area of another dry dock and sawmill owned by W. J. Poitevent. These boat slips were used for pulling boats onto the bank for unloading or repairs. Two large piles of broken bricks were found in this area along the East Pearl River. One brick pile in particular revealed a foundation structure which is believed to have supported a steam engine. Large cast iron plating and scrap iron, probably steam engine or boiler parts, are scattered on the surface. Several large roller pins, which may have been used to pull boats or logs out of the water with the help of steam engines, were also found. This may be the Poitevent dry dock and sawmill, as described in the Gainesville Gazette (September 27, 1845, no. XXI) by a visitor from New Orleans:

From the graveyard I proceeded in the direction in which I heard a steam engine. I had not proceeded more than half a mile when I came upon a large steam sawmill, apparently at the confluence of four rivers; the engine was puffing away, and the saw rattling in a most obstreperous manner, that awakened the solitude of the surrounding forest with quite a business sound. Everything around looked like active energetic employment. On the opposite shore was the wreck of an old condemned steamer. Piercing above the water on an opposite shore from that the steamboat was nearly ready to be launched. I understood that it was to ply from Gainesville up the Pearl River, and that another boat one hundred and fifty feet long, to run between Gainesville and New Orleans, was to begun as soon as the one on the stocks should be launched.

Shovel testing has shown that the Gainesville historic occupation was concentrated along the river terrace mainly within area detailed on the 1837 street plat. Moving out of this area, the historic occupation seemed to date only from the 1940's -

1950's. Below the terrace ridge, two different dry dock activities used by Poitevent were supposedly discovered. The one at the confluence of Mike's Bayou with the East Pearl River included a sawmill; the other sawmill was in front of Square E, west of the public landing. Traces of prehistoric occupation were found along the entire river terrace within Section I.

## **SECTION II:**

Section II completed the survey along the river frontage, covering Squares I, D, and C by survey lines #40 - #45. Section II began at the bluff edge, and the lines ran at 40 NNE back toward Union Street. Squares I and D were covered by lines #40 - #45 with Squares D and C being the most productive along the river bluff. This area was the center, cultural center, of Gainesville where the bluff met the East Pearl River along the east bank of the bend of the river. This particular location offered an easy access to the river edge without having to walk a long distance through wet bottomland. This was where the public landing for steamboats was located during the 1840 - 1880 era, and old pilings are still visible along the water edge.

In the southwest corner of Square D, line #40, with tests #1 and 2, proved to be extremely productive. Test #1 was dug on the south side of a large live oak. It is situated close to the bluff edge on top of a broad flat plain at about 20 - 24 feet. Artifacts found included square nails, ceramics, window glass, four prehistoric sherds, and two flint flakes. Test #2 revealed evidence of trash burning which extended to a depth of 55 - 60 cm and contained artifacts from 1840 to 1900. Square nails, bottle

glass and window glass, ceramics, crockery, one metal keg valve used with wooden kegs, metal parts of unknown use, broken brick, metal parts for a pair of shoes (a pair of brass heel parts and metal lacing eyes for a pair of ladies shoes), bone, charcoal, a piece of white kaolin tobacco pipe bowl, and several prehistoric pottery sherds were found at this locality. A large portion of a white ceramics plate with a blue trim was found here. This type of ceramics has been found spread over a large area associated with different house sites within Sections II and III.

The Gainesville Advocate (September 27, 1845, no. XXI) mentioned a coffeehouse located on the corner of Center Street and Water Street (Square D). This coffeehouse was owned by T. Batte, who also owned the Gainesville Hotel, located on the north side of the public square. The Army Corps of Engineers' 1962 topographic map showed three structures within Square D. One of these is the Stennis Space Center River House. A trash pile was found near the back of the River House with trash debris from 1940 - 1960. Square D proved to be highly productive along the frontage of Water Street and along the frontage of Main Street.

Square I produced few to no cultural artifacts in the test pits. Along line #41 within Square I, tests #4 - #6, showed evidence of very recent trash debris on the surface. Square I proved to be almost sterile.

Square C, covered by line #45 - #50, was a highly productive area for cultural artifacts. It is thought to be the location of the Poitevent Plantation House that was built in the early 1840's and was torn down in the early 1900's. The western portion of

this Square C contained numerous historic artifacts, mostly abundant along the northwest quarter of Main Street. Artifacts such as broken bricks, square nails, ceramics, bottle glass (dark green, purple, aqua, and clear), window glass, crockery, oyster and clam shell, bone material, ash, and charcoal were found. Some unbroken handmade bricks were found along line #46, test #2. The last line (#50) in this square, near the Stennis Space Center's Rouchon House, showed disturbance with few to no artifacts. Perhaps this area was bulldozed during construction of the buildings located near the Rouchon House.

Beyond the Rouchon House to the southeast, the elevation dropped below the 20 foot contour line and was not tested during this survey. The area appeared to be favorable for both prehistoric and historic occupations and may require future testing. Surface scatters indicated a possible historic house site in this general location, and a capped artesian well was located here. During high river stages, this land would have been inundated; it is river bottomland, very close to the water. This area had a wharf system during the 1840 - 1900 period, and along the bank of the East Pearl River, dry dock activity flourished. Archaeological shovel testing should determine the nature and intensity of activity in this area.

Square C proved to be the most highly productive area for prehistoric cultural artifacts. This location is situated directly on top of the bluff within the eastern bend of the East Pearl River. Almost every test produced prehistoric pottery sherds or lithic flint flakes. No distinct midden deposits were detected in Square C, but traces of bone material may indicate that a midden may have existed prior to historic occupation.

Traces of charcoal were found during the survey of line #45 along Main Street in Square D. Historic occupation could have easily disturbed the in situ midden material.

### SECTION III:

Section III ran the full length of Main Street and consisted of Squares J, K, P, Q, and X. The survey of lines #51 - #62, covering Squares J and K, has been completed. Square J had two historic house structures located at the end of Union Street into Square K. One of these was a general store, and the other was an older house. Two cement slabs existed in this area -- probably dating from the 1940 - 1950 time period. This area is largely covered by a heavy fill, or road fill, near the road frontage. A heavy overburden of gravel and soil in different layers is 30 cm thick in some places. A recent sewer line came through Square J during the course of this survey, and the stratigraphy of the ditches helped to confirm the shovel testing results. Overall, the shovel testing showed overburden and disturbance with hard-packed soil until lines #57 and #59 of Square K were reached.

All lines in Square J were carried up to the tree line, which is 75 meters southeast of Main Street. At the end of lines #51 - #53 there is an active hyacinth sewer drainage area for the Rouchon House area. Within the tree line are various piles of soil which were probably disturbed by a bulldozer. Evidence, such as brick and trash from about 1950 - 1960, of a historic house site was noted to be scattered throughout the surrounding woods. Fencing and recent artifacts were scattered on the surface. The survey lines were not carried out beyond this point due to the disturbed

nature of the deposits.

A recent cement slab is located in the center of what was Union Street, between Squares J and K. It was not until line #56 was begun that the soil was once again in a natural and undisturbed condition. Lines #56 - #61 covered Square K. Lines #56 - #58 showed cultural evidence of a house site from the 1940s to 1960s. A lagoon filled with vegetation was located in the woods; a clay tile pipe leading back to the general area where a structure was once located was an indication that this was probably a sewage lagoon.

Square P was surveyed by lines #61 - #62. The street dividing these two squares was not visible. A river road was found to run along the back side of southeastern Gainesville along the ridge of Harper's Bayou. This road followed the ridge of Harper's Bayou down to the confluence of the East Pearl River where it eventually merged into Water Street. This road clearly came out on the north side of Squares O and P, just along side the present-day Little Red School House of Stennis Space Center.

Skirting the lagoon along line #60, the survey of lines #57 - #59 was resumed on the back side of the lagoon. This area revealed another interesting aspect of Gainesville history. Line #57 was found to run parallel to a ditch which drained the sewer lagoon into a broad flat lowland and crossed a southeastern ridge. The drainage drops in elevation as it runs eastward toward Harper's Bayou. Crossing this drainage ditch, the survey line climbed a higher slope to top a second ridge which runs along the west side of Harper's Bayou.

The first ridge was covered with trash from the 1950s and 1960s. Several concave depressions were found in a general area and indicated that a house structure was once nearby. These concave depressions indicated either a well, trash pit, or privy. One depression was exceptionally wide and may be an old well. Recent trash was both in and about this huge depression which is 3 - 4 meters in diameter and a half of a meter deep. Broken bricks are scattered on the surface. This particular concave feature was found already flagged, with several different flagging tapes marking different points along this ridge with historical trash scatter. Testing along this ridge with lines #58 and #59 indicated the existence of an occupation of 1900 or earlier. Artifacts such as square nails, ceramics, crockery, bottle glass, and broken brick were found. A few prehistoric pottery sherds were also found.

Crossing the drainage from ridge #1 to ridge #2, the survey lines climbed sharply along to the top of the higher ridge. This ridge was found to follow the western ridge of Harper's Bayou with an old road running on the down slope side between the ridge crest and Harper's Bayou. This lead down to the confluence of the East Pearl River where more dry docks were located during the 1840 - 1900 era. On top of this ridge historical artifacts from this period included the following: square nails, ceramics, broken bricks, bottle glass, crockery, and a ladies black dress button. One of the ceramics fragments was similar to that found on line #40, test #2 in Square D near the river front. Prehistoric pottery and numerous lithic flint flakes were found in this area. One test in particular showed a deeper gray horizon, or a possible burnt tree stump, that extended to 90 cm below the surface. This ridge along Harper's Bayou

included an early historic occupation and prehistoric occupation, both of which require future testing.



## **CHAPTER 8**

### **ARTIFACT ANALYSIS**

Artifacts collected during the survey and excavation of the Gainesville Courthouse and adjacent area were washed, sorted and catalogued by field designation. A preliminary rough sort was completed to determine the temporal affiliations of artifacts. The analysis of the stylistic and derivative temporal information was not thoroughly completed during this project. A more exhaustive identification of the various styles of ceramic, glass, and metal artifacts will be conducted in the near future. Type collections applicable to Gainesville and other coeval communities along the Pearl River will be developed for future studies as well as for refining the results presented below, particularly the dating of various archaeological deposits.

The present analysis concentrated on the spatial distribution of artifacts. There followed a preliminary classification based on functional categories that attempted to tie artifact clusters to historically documented structures in the Gainesville area. In addition to the Courthouse, test units were completed in areas where the following historic structures have been documented.

1) The Poitevant House (plate 2) was located in Square C on the Albert Witbeck map (1908). Survey lines that may cover the lot and adjacent area of this house are in Section II and include lines 46, tests 1-3; line 47, test 1-3, line 48 tests 1-3 and Line 49, tests 1-3.

2) Old Shop (Witbeck map, 1908) was shown in Lot H fronting Center St. No further

description of the shop or the nature of the business conducted has yet been discovered. Survey lines that cover the "Old Shop" are in Section I: line 3, tests 2-4; Line 2, tests 1-3; Line 1, tests 1 and 2; Line 4, tests 1 and 2; and line 5, tests 1 and 2.

3) Hotel Gainesville Exchange was mentioned in the Gainesville Advocate (May 20, 1845) as being located at the corner of Center and Water Streets. This would place it in Square E (survey Section I) that was examined by Line 2, test 6; Line 3, tests 5-8; Line 4, tests 6, 8 and 9; and Line 5, tests 8 and 9. The Hotel also included a billiard room and House of Entertainment (Ibid).

4) A Coffee House, mentioned in the Gainesville Advocate (March 28, 1846), may have been located opposite the Hotel on Center and Water Streets in Square D (survey Section II). If so, the Coffee House would have been surveyed by line 40, tests 1 and 2 and line 41, tests 1 and 2. Alternatively, this establishment may have been part of the Hotel Gainesville Exchange. Test results seem to indicate that the Coffee House, or similar business, was located across the street from the Hotel. The types of glass bottles found in this (and other similar locales) appear to support the description of the Coffee House found in the Gainesville Advocate (August 1, 1845) that advertises the availability of "Spiritous and Vineous Liquors" at the Coffee Houses.

5) As mentioned above, the survey, and associated subsurface tests, have probably identified the location of the Poitevant Dry Dock, lumber mill and the brick factory with its kilns. Further excavations and more focused subsurface tests are needed in these areas to validate their identity.

6) The Carver House, eventually known as the Petermann House, was located in

Square K, two blocks up from the river, on the northeast corner of Main and Union Streets.

There are other historically documented buildings that were not covered by the present survey. Future work may produce archaeological evidence of such documented sites as a Dancing School (est. 1846); the Pearl River House Hotel and 10 pin alley; the Gainesville Advocate office (1846); the Hart and Wilson Store (1846); and the Carver Store (1908). Additional historic research will undoubtedly fill in the location and description of other buildings in Gainesville that can be archaeologically investigated.

#### *Functional and Stylistic Analysis*

The artifact categories utilized in the functional analysis include ceramics, bottle glass, and kaolin pipes. The location of Native American artifacts is also given but provides little data to ascertain how these Indian remains came to be deposited at Gainesville. Table 2 provides a listing of all artifacts collected in the Courthouse Square excavation and the shovel testing conducted in Sections I, II, and III.

The relative frequencies of the historic artifacts in the categories listed above were determined first for those survey lines and tests that were located in the approximate location of the four historically documented structures. After the artifact assemblage for each known building was developed, the results of other survey lines were analyzed to identify artifact assemblages that may indicate sites of similar function (i.e. houses, public buildings, stores, etc).

# COURTHOUSE

	N62W30 (I)	N49W15 (I)	N61W29 (I)	N60W26 (I)	N47W15 (I)	N48W15 (I)	N49W17 (I)	N62 W29 (I)
<b>GLASS</b>								
<b>WINDOW</b>								
clear		13	102	58	33	23	55	13
aqua		10	93	25	50	43	46	
frosted								
<b>BOTTLE</b>								
amber			1	13		2	6	1
aqua			21	3	22	28	9	4
clear		7	7	4	82	67	36	3
light green			9		12	24	5	18
amethyst			2		31		4	
blue					1		2	
frosted								
yellow								
dark green		2	2	4	26	17	2	7
<b>CHIMNEY</b>					29	14	56	
<b>ORNATE</b>			1	2	31	1		
<b>OTHER</b>							2 pink bottle	
<b>BRICK</b>							6	
new	5			73	4	54		23
old						40		
mortar	8	1		10	1	1		1
slate								
<b>METAL</b>								
nail		6	29	14	47	83	242	51
unidentified			53			43		30
spike			2	1	6	7		
lead shot			2				1	2
bullet casing								
rivet								
flat						2		
other				1 padlock				
<b>CERAMICS</b>								
pearlware			1		44	5	32	
handpainted			8	2	3			1
blue edge								
green edge								
annular								
mocha					2		3	
blue transfer							3	
purple transfer								1
green transfer							1	
stoneware			1		2	9	8	
whiteware		4	17	3		4	4	10
yellowware								
salt-glazed						1		
terracotta						1	3	
porcelain			1					
<b>PIPES (kaolin/cer.)</b>								
<b>SEWAGE PIPE</b>			3					5
<b>BUTTONS</b>							1 glass	
<b>ECOFACTS</b>								
charcoal	35		18	1				
concretion				7				
pebble			3	2	3	2		
cinder						1		
bone								
rangia								
oyster					1			
daub								
<b>OTHER</b>								
glass bead			1					
Indian wares								
chert flake/proj.pt.			2					

Table 2. Artifact listings from the Gainesville Courthouse site, Section I, Section II, and Section III.

# COURTHOUSE

	N51W20 (I)	N52W20 (I)	N50W18 (I)	N62W30 (I)	N51W19 (I)	N55E01 (I)	N60W30 (I)
<b>GLASS</b>							
<b>WINDOW</b>							
clear	12	7	52	68	16	2	3
aqua	31	6	27	21	91	7	
frosted							
<b>BOTTLE</b>							
amber	3				4	13	1
aqua	20	5	5	8	8	5	
clear	22		14	5	7	10	
light green							
amethyst	9	4			13		
blue							
frosted							
yellow							
dark green				18		2	3
<b>CHIMNEY</b>	70	19			53		
ORNATE	3		3		1		
OTHER					6		
<b>BRICK</b>							
new	7		2	37	2	45	6
old							
mortar	3		5				1
slate							
<b>METAL</b>							
nail	198	25		150	140	34	3
unidentified		8					
spike	2						
lead shot	1		3		2		
bullet casing	1		2	1			
rivet							
flat				4		3	
other			1 tableware				
<b>CERAMICS</b>							
pearlware	12	2		6	5		7
handpainted	1		1	9	1		1
blue edge					1		
green edge							
annular	1						
mocha	12		1		5		
blue transfer							
purple transfer							
green transfer							
stoneware	4		3		5		
whiteware	44	1	14	25	7		
yellowware				4			
salt-glazed	7		4				
terracotta							
porcelain							
PIPES (kaolin/cer.)	1		1				
<b>SEWAGE PIPE</b>							
<b>BUTTONS</b>			1				
<b>ECOFACETS</b>							
charcoal						7	
concretion							
pebble					3		
cinder							
bone							
rangia							
oyster					1		
daub					1		
<b>OTHER</b>							
glass bead							
Indian wares							
chert flake/proj.pt.							

# SECTION I

	LINE 4 : 8e	LINE 6 : 11f	LINE 3 : 2h	LINE 3 : 5e	LINE 2 : 6e	LINE 1 : 2h	LINE 3 : 4h	LINE 9 : 7f
<b>GLASS</b>								
WINDOW								
clear								
aqua	3			3	3	2		1
frosted					1	2		2
<b>BOTTLE</b>								2
amber	2				2	2	1	1
aqua		1		1		13	2	
clear	1			6	4	7	4	
light green			2			6	1	7
amethyst			1	2	1	3		
blue								
frosted								
yellow					1			
dark green			3	1	1	4		4
<b>CHIMNEY</b>								
<b>ORNATE</b>								
<b>OTHER</b>								
<b>BRICK</b>								
new	4	2	8	6	35	5	4	3
old				2				
mortar		4						
slate						1	1	
<b>METAL</b>								
nail	3		20	18	51	20	19	11
unidentified	1	4	2	1		2		
spike	2	3		2				
lead shot								
bullet casing								
rivet								
flat	1	5 copper		5	1	1		1 hinge
other		1 farm tool						
<b>CERAMICS</b>								
pearlware		2	5	2	10	1		
handpainted								
blue edge								
green edge								
annular								
mocha					1			
blue transfer		1			1			
purple transfer					1			
green transfer								
stoneware						1		
whiteware	2							
yellowware	1							
salt-glazed								
terracotta						1		
porcelain	3				1			
<b>PIPES (kaolin/cer.)</b>								
<b>SEWAGE PIPE</b>								
<b>BUTTONS</b>								
<b>ECOFACETS</b>								
charcoal							2	
concretion								
pebble	6			2	3			
cinder								
bone	1 mammal							
rangia								
oyster					5			
daub								
<b>OTHER</b>			1 snail shell			1 ceramic knob		
glass bead		1 blue faceted						
Indian wares				1				
chert flake/proj.pt.								

Table 2 (continued).

# SECTION I

	LINE 5: 5e	LINE 2: 2h	LINE 4: 6e	LINE 5: 1h	LINE 3: 6e	LINE 4: 9e	LINE 1: 1h	LINE 9: 8f
<b>GLASS</b>								
<b>WINDOW</b>								
clear		2						
aqua	5	2	1		2		9	
frosted						1		
<b>BOTTLE</b>								
amber		1		1	1		6	
aqua		3	6			2	9	
clear		1	3	1	15	3	7	1
light green		3	1	1		1	13	
amethyst	7	1		4			3	
blue							4	
frosted								1
yellow							1	
dark green		1	1	1	1	1	5	
<b>CHIMNEY</b>								
<b>ORNATE</b>								
<b>OTHER</b>								
<b>BRICK</b>								
new	6	10	8	2	11	2	4	4
old				6	2	6		
mortar						4		1
slate					1			
<b>METAL</b>								
nail	1	1	5	2	1	4	6	1
unidentified		1		3			2	
spike	2							
lead shot								
bullet casing		1				1		
rivet								
flat				1				
other					1 tableware	1 ring		
<b>CERAMICS</b>								
pearlware	6	1	10	1			2	9
handpainted								2
blue edge								
green edge								
annular								
mocha								
blue transfer		1						
purple transfer								1
green transfer								
stoneware							1	
whiteware				1	2	1		2
yellowware								2
salt-glazed								
terracotta								
porcelain						1		
<b>PIPES (kaolin/cer.)</b>								
<b>SEWAGE PIPE</b>								
<b>BUTTONS</b>								
<b>ECOFACETS</b>								
charcoal								
concretion								
pebble			2		1	1 cortex	2	
cinder								
bone								
rangia								
oyster			4					1
daub								
<b>OTHER</b>								
glass bead								
Indian wares						3		
chert flake/proj.pt.						1		

Table 2 (continued).

# SECTION I

	LINE 2 : 5e	LINE 5 : 8e	LINE 5 : 6e	LINE 3 : 7e	LINE 3 : 3h	LINE 2 : 3h	LINE 4 : 2h	LINE 4 : 1h	LINE 5 : 2h
<b>GLASS</b>									
<b>WINDOW</b>									
clear		1	3	1	2			1	
aqua		2		3	2		2	1	
frosted									
<b>BOTTLE</b>									
amber		1					1		
aqua	1	1	4	1	2	2	5	1	2
clear					1		3		2
light green		2	1	1	1			1	2
amethyst		2	1		1	1		2	
blue								1	
frosted									
yellow									
dark green			3	3	1		4	2	1
<b>CHIMNEY</b>									
<b>ORNATE</b>									
<b>OTHER</b>									
<b>BRICK</b>									
new	4	14	8	26	22	14	52	11	8
old		5	7					4	
mortar				1			2		2
slate									
<b>METAL</b>									
nail	1	16	5	15	13	2	20	6	7
unidentified						3			
spike									
lead shot									
bullet casing		1							
rivet				1					
flat			1			1			
other									
<b>CERAMICS</b>									
pearlware	5	3	3	6	3			3	4
handpainted		1	2					1	1
blue edge					1				
green edge									
annular		1							
mocha									
blue transfer				1					
purple transfer									
green transfer									
stoneware									
whiteware							1		
yellowware			1				2	1	
salt-glazed									1
terracotta									
porcelain		1							
PIPES (kaolin/cer.)									
SEWAGE PIPE									
BUTTONS		2							1
<b>ECOFACETS</b>									
charcoal					1		2		
concretion									
pebble	1				1			1	
cinder									
bone									
rangia									
oyster									
daub									
<b>OTHER</b>									
glass bead									
Indian wares		4		1					
chert flake/proj.pt.									

Table 2 (continued).



# SECTION I

	LINE 3 : 7e	LINE 18 : 8	LINE 11 : 7	LINE 5 : 9e	LINE 3 : 8e	LINE 4 : 7e	LINE 2 : 1h	LINE 7 : 2g
<b>GLASS</b>								
<b>WINDOW</b>								
clear					1	1	3	1
aqua				5	2		7	5
frosted				1				8
<b>BOTTLE</b>								
amber								
aqua				1	18	2	6	3
clear				1	1	1		
light green			2				2	
amethyst				1			3	
blue								
frosted					1			2
yellow								
dark green			1		1	3		
<b>CHIMNEY</b>								
<b>ORNATE</b>								
<b>OTHER</b>								
<b>BRICK</b>								
new			3	5	16	7	3	2
old		10						8
mortar								
slate					1			
<b>METAL</b>								
nail				2	25	8	13	14
unidentified	2					4		2
spike							2	
lead shot								
bullet casing							1	
rivet								
flat					2			1
other	1 ring							
<b>CERAMICS</b>								
pearlware	4			2	1	4	6	5
handpainted					1			1
blue edge					1			
green edge								
annular								
mocha								
blue transfer							1	
purple transfer								
green transfer								1
stoneware								
whiteware						6		
yellowware								
salt-glazed								
terracotta								
porcelain								
PIPES (kaolin/cer.)				2				
<b>SEWAGE PIPE</b>								
<b>BUTTONS</b>					2			
<b>ECOFACETS</b>								
charcoal								
concretion	1							
pebble					3	1		1 chert
cinder								
bone								
rangia				27				
oyster	2							2
daub								
<b>OTHER</b>								
glass bead								
Indian wares			1	4	3			
chert flake/proj.pt.			2					

Table 2 (continued).

# SECTION II

	LINE 7: 5i	LINE 49: 1c	LINE 48: 1c	LINE 45: 1d	LINE 41: 4d	LINE 40: 6d	LINE 9: 2i	LINE 40: 7d
<b>GLASS</b>								
<b>WINDOW</b>								
clear							1	3
aqua		1	7	4				17
frosted		2						
<b>BOTTLE</b>								
amber			3	1	9	4		5
aqua	1			4	2	3		12
clear	1		12	1	27	5	4	9
light green		2	2	6	2	9	1	8
amethyst						1		3
blue			1	2	6			
frosted								
yellow						1		
dark green		2		6		4		10
<b>CHIMNEY</b>								3
<b>ORNATE</b>								
<b>OTHER</b>		6						
<b>BRICK</b>								
new		10	29	18			1	13
old		1	5			3	1	
mortar								2
slate			1					
<b>METAL</b>								
nail	1	4	16	16		3	5	22
unidentified		3	17		1	4		
spike		1	1		4			
lead shot				1				1
bullet casing								
rivet								
flat					1 hinge			
other		2						
<b>CERAMICS</b>								
pearlware		4	25	13	17	1		3
handpainted					1			
blue edge							1	
green edge								
annular			1					
mocha								
blue transfer				1				
purple transfer			1 (black)		2		1	
green transfer			1					1
stoneware								
whiteware								
yellowware			2					
salt-glazed								
terracotta						1		
porcelain					1			
<b>PIPES (kaolin/cer.)</b>								
<b>SEWAGE PIPE</b>								
<b>BUTTONS</b>								
<b>ECOFACETS</b>								
charcoal			15					
concretion								
pebble		1	6	1				5
cinder								
bone								
rangia		12		12				
oyster		2	3					
daub								
<b>OTHER</b>	14 burned clay				1 graphite cylinder			
glass bead								
Indian wares	1	2	8	4				
chert flake/proj.pt.			2					

# SECTION II

	LINE 47: 3c	LINE 47: 1c	LINE 46: 3c	LINE 46: 1c	LINE 45: 3d	LINE 41: 2d	LINE 8: 5i	LINE 8: 4i
<b>GLASS</b>								
<b>WINDOW</b>								
clear	1					3		
aqua	8	1				6		1
frosted								
<b>BOTTLE</b>								
amber	2		1					
aqua		2		1		1		
clear	9	1	1	1		1	2	
light green	2		2		1	1	2	1
amethyst	4	3				2		
blue								
frosted			1					
yellow								
dark green	3						2	
<b>CHIMNEY</b>								
<b>ORNATE</b>								
<b>OTHER</b>		1						
<b>BRICK</b>								
new	9	11	3		7	6	2	1
old								
mortar			1					
slate								
<b>METAL</b>								
nail	32	3	4	13	6	72	4	14
unidentified		10	2	2	3	13	7	
spike		1					1	
lead shot					1			
bullet casing								
rivet								
flat								
other								
<b>CERAMICS</b>								
pearlware	14	3	2	3	4	2	3	5
handpainted								1
blue edge								
green edge								
annular								
mocha	1						1	1
blue transfer	2		1			1		
purple transfer			1		1 red			1
green transfer								
stoneware								
whiteware	1				1		1	
yellowware							1	
salt-glazed								
terracotta								
porcelain	2							
PIPES (kaolin/cer.)								
<b>SEWAGE PIPE</b>								
<b>BUTTONS</b>	1							
<b>ECOFACTS</b>								
charcoal								
concretion								
pebble	1 chert	2	2		1			
cinder								
bone								
rangia				3				
oyster	1					2		
daub								
<b>OTHER</b>								
glass bead								
Indian wares	3	2	1	2				
chert flake/proj.pt.								

Table 2 (continued).

# SECTION II

	LINE 48: 2c	LINE 9: 9i	LINE 6: 7i	LINE 40: 1d	LINE 41: 1d	LINE 47: 4c	LINE 49: 5c	LINE 49: 3c
<b>GLASS</b>								
<b>WINDOW</b>								
clear	4	1		1		6		
aqua	1			4	43	21	1	
frosted					5	23		
<b>BOTTLE</b>								
amber	1	1				2		
aqua	2		4	3	5	5		
clear	4	3		1	4	8	1	
light green	1		2		2	15		
amethyst		1						
blue	1	2						1
frosted	1		1	3				1
yellow						3		
dark green	2				3	7		
<b>CHIMNEY</b>	1							
<b>ORNATE</b>								
<b>OTHER</b>								
<b>BRICK</b>								
new	10	6		4	7	3	6	5
old			3					1
mortar								3
slate								
<b>METAL</b>								
nail	6	4	9	4	10	20	4	7
unidentified	3					4		
spike								
lead shot								
bullet casing								
rivet								
flat								
other								
<b>CERAMICS</b>								
pearlware	12	6	6		4	24	2	5
handpainted		1	3		2			
blue edge	1			1				3
green edge		1						
annular			2		3			
mocha	1							
blue transfer			1			1	1	
purple transfer		3			4			
green transfer							1	
stoneware						3		
whiteware	4			1				
yellowware			1					
salt-glazed								
terracotta								
porcelain	2		1					
<b>PIPES (kaolin/cer.)</b>								
<b>SEWAGE PIPE</b>								
<b>BUTTONS</b>								
<b>ECOFACETS</b>								
charcoal	1 coal	2 coal						3
concretion								
pebble				1				
cinder							1	
bone	1 herbivore tooth							
rangia								
oyster						1		
daub								
<b>OTHER</b>								
glass bead								
Indian wares		2		2		2		6
chert flake/proj.pt.								

Table 2 (continued).

# SECTION II

	LINE 41: 3d	LINE 48: 5c	LINE 48: 4c	LINE 49: 2c	LINE 48: 3c	LINE 46: 2c	LINE 45: 3d	LINE 40: 6d	LINE 47: 3c
<b>GLASS</b>									
<b>WINDOW</b>									
clear				4		2		1	3
aqua		1			3		1	1	2
frosted					1				
<b>BOTTLE</b>									
amber	1								2
aqua					1			3	
clear	1			1	1	2	1	2	2
light green		1		2	1			2	
amethyst									1
blue									1
frosted				1					
yellow									
dark green				1	1			1	
<b>CHIMNEY</b>				1					
<b>ORNATE</b>									1
<b>OTHER</b>			1						
<b>BRICK</b>									
new		9	6	6	16	8	7	17	11
old		1	1	3	1			2	
mortar						4	1	2	5
slate									
<b>METAL</b>									
nail	2	2		5	10	4	6	13	8
unidentified	3	5		1	1				4
spike						1			
lead shot									
bullet casing									1
rivet									
flat					2			5	
other									
<b>CERAMICS</b>									
pearlware	12		1	1	8		6		8
handpainted									
blue edge									
green edge									
annular									
mocha									
blue transfer					1				1
purple transfer	1								
green transfer									
stoneware									
whiteware							1		
yellowware									1
salt-glazed									
terracotta						1			
porcelain				1					
PIPES (kaolin/cer.)									
<b>SEWAGE PIPE</b>									
<b>BUTTONS</b>									
<b>ECOFACTS</b>									
charcoal		2							
concretion									
pebble	5	1	2		1		6	1	4
cinder									
bone									3 mammal; 1 reptile
rangia		6							3
oyster	1	2				2			
daub									
<b>OTHER</b>		1 plastic							
glass bead					1				
Indian wares		1	1	1	8		7		
chert flake/proj.pt.									

# SECTION III

	LINE 57: 2	LINE 51: 2	LINE 59: 8	LINE 59: 6	LINE 60: 7	LINE 60: 9	LINE 58: 14k	LINE 58: 8
<b>GLASS</b>								
<b>WINDOW</b>								
clear								
aqua	1	1		1				
frosted								
<b>BOTTLE</b>								
amber							1	
aqua	1	1		1				
clear	8	1					1	
light green		1						
amethyst		2						
blue		1						
frosted								
yellow								
dark green	2	1						
<b>CHIMNEY</b>								
<b>ORNATE</b>								
<b>OTHER</b>							1 hatpin top	
<b>BRICK</b>								
new	1	2		27	5	1	16	6
old			4	5	1	5		
mortar			8				3	
slate								
<b>METAL</b>								
nail		4		11	2	1		
unidentified						4		1
spike	6						1	
lead shot								
bullet casing								
rivet								
flat								
other								
<b>CERAMICS</b>								
pearlware	3	3		2	2		1	
handpainted					1			
blue edge	1				1			
green edge								
annular								
mocha								
blue transfer		1						
purple transfer								
green transfer								
stoneware								
whiteware						1		
yellowware						1		
salt-glazed								
terracotta								
porcelain								
<b>PIPES (kaolin/cer.)</b>								
<b>SEWAGE PIPE</b>								
<b>BUTTONS</b>								
<b>ECOFACTS</b>								
charcoal				2	1		2	
concretion								
pebble		2	1	3			5	
cinder				1				
bone								
rangia		2						
oyster								
daub								
<b>OTHER</b>	2 rubber							
glass bead								
Indian wares			3					
chert flake/proj.pt.		1					1	

Table 2 (continued).



# SECTION III

	LINE 58:1(4)k	LINE 58:12	LINE 60: 3p
<b>GLASS</b>			
WINDOW			
clear		1	
aqua			
frosted			
<b>BOTTLE</b>			
amber			
aqua			
clear			
light green			
amethyst			
blue			
frosted			
yellow			
dark green			
<b>CHIMNEY</b>			
<b>ORNATE</b>			
<b>OTHER</b>			
<b>BRICK</b>			
new	3	2	
old	1		
mortar			
slate			
<b>METAL</b>			
nail	1	2	
unidentified			
spike			
lead shot			
bullet (case)			
rivet			
flat			
other			
<b>CERAMICS</b>			
pearlware			
handpainted			
blue edge			
green edge			
annular			
mocha			
blue transfer			
purple transfer			
green transfer			
stoneware			
whiteware			
yellowware			
salt-glazed			
terracotta			
porcelain			
PIPES (kaolin/cer.)			
<b>SEWAGE</b>			
<b>BUTTONS</b>			
<b>ECOFACTS</b>			
charcoal	1		yes
concretion			yes
pebble			
cinder			
bone			
rangia			
oyster			
daub			
<b>OTHER</b>			
glass bead			
Indian wares			
chert flake/proj.pt.			

Table 2 (continued).



The final determination of site function will require additional historical research, coupled with focused testing of localities. The present analysis has allowed the development of testable hypotheses related to the use of each plot of land in the town and surrounding areas.

Stylistically, the historic artifacts recovered during this project span the period from 1830 to 1960. The most frequent finds seem to date from 1840 to 1880, during the peak occupation of Gainesville. Native American artifacts appear representative of the historic or late prehistoric periods. None of the ceramics are decorated, and the two bi-faces recovered during this project are characteristic of the Mississippian culture.

A total of 3973 objects were recovered from the excavations. Two hundred and fifty-three are ecofacts, mostly pebbles. Ninety-six (2%) are Native American artifacts, while the remaining 3,624 (91%) of all items recovered are manufactured by Europeans and/or Americans (see Table 3).

The description that follows highlights those classes of artifacts (primarily ceramics and glass) that provide temporally diagnostic attributes relevant to the preliminary analysis of the Gainesville artifacts.

	<b>Courthouse</b>	<b>Section I</b>	<b>Section II</b>	<b>Section III</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>European/ US</b>	4215	1310	1791	523	7839
<b>Native American</b>	2	23	57	16	98
<b>Ecofacts</b>	65	77	138	38	318

**Table 3. Artifacts and ecofacts recovered from test excavations.**

## Ceramic

### 1) Pearlware

This type of ceramic was first developed in 1779 by Josiah Wedgwood from creamware. By the early 19th century, it was widely imitated (Hughes 1957:121; Quimby 1973:232, Noel-Hume 1978: 128). The new ware was manufactured by increasing the amounts of calcinated flint and the "china" clay content. In addition, pearlware contained cobalt oxide in the glaze which results in a bluer color than that commonly seen on creamware. This blue color is particularly evident in the crevices of cups and plates.

Pearlware was used chiefly for table service (Hughes 1957: 121), particularly when printed with transfer. Transfer printing was initiated in London in 1753 (Ibid: 148). The samples of this type of pearlware discovered during the Gainsville project include blue, green, purple and black transfer ware (Plate 4). By the 1920's transfer printed pearlware dominated the utilitarian wares in American households (Noel-Hume 1973-236).

Other pearlware decorative styles found at Gainsville include handpainted, banded or annular, and mocha ware (Plate 5). This latter type originated in the early 19th century in the shop of William Adams of Cobridge (Hughes 1957: 112). The mocha decoration was used primarily on creamware until the 1830s when whiteware or hard stoneware was substituted. In the Gainsville assemblage, most mocha ware examples are on pearlware.

Polychrome handpainted ceramics included mostly stenciled floral patterns and



Plate 4. Pearlware.

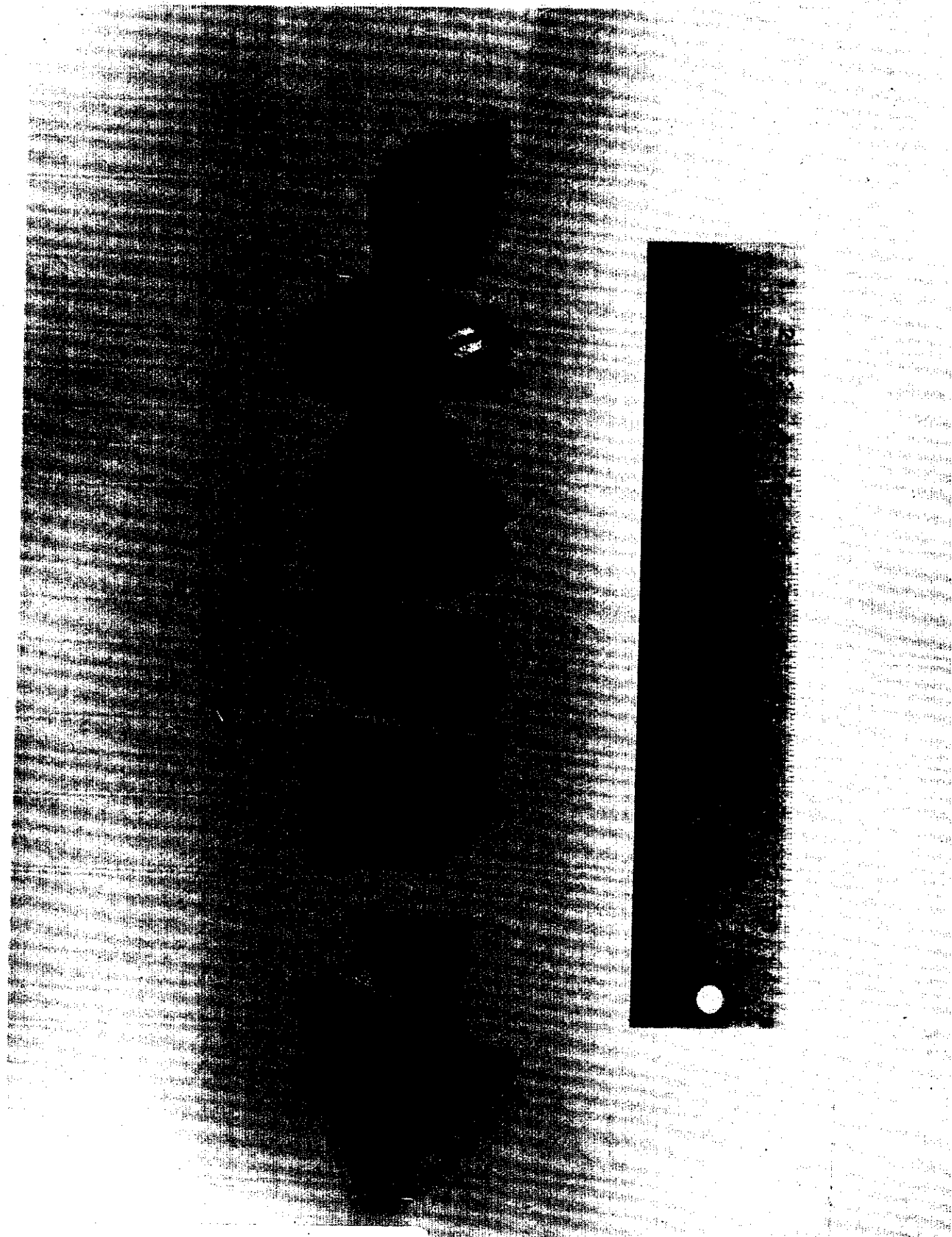


Plate 5. Mocha ware, stoneware,  
and handpainted ceramics.

bright colors which are dated to ca. 1815-1835 (Goodwin et al. 1984).

## 2) Whiteware

This type of ware was difficult to separate from either creamware and/or pearlware. The addition of cobalt produced whiter ware during the early 19th century. Cobalt was reduced in the manufacture of whiteware in 1825 when it was replaced by a transparent glaze. A few examples of whiteware were identified in the Gainesville collection.

## 3) Yellow-colored earthenware

This coarse American ceramic is really stoneware, but since it was not fired to vitreous state it is normally called earthenware (Goodwin et al 1984: 349). It usually is represented by thick utilitarian shapes and is usually undecorated or decorated by annular and mocha designs. The yellow ware from Gainesville probably dates from 1830 to 1900. Yellow ware may also be covered with Albany slip glaze which when fired at low temperatures, results in dense, matte, brown to black colors. This type ware is often used to manufacture storage jars.

## 4) Stoneware

Stoneware was first manufactured commercially in the United States around 1775. Utilitarian use of this ware became popular after 1800. It is wheel thrown and thick. When salt glazing is applied, the ceramics are characterized by a glaze that has an "orange-peel" texture (Rhodes 1973: 286). A few examples of stoneware vessel fragments were discovered in the Gainesville survey (Plate 5).

## 5) Porcelain

Western hard paste porcelain was first produced in 1709 by Johann Frederick Bottger (Wynter 1972: 32). The first commercially successful hard paste porcelain was manufactured in the United States circa 1880. Hard paste porcelain is a very white, vitrified, and translucent ware. It is made from kaolin and petunse (feldspar, potassium aluminum silicate) and fired at a high temperature.

Very few sherds of porcelain were discovered during the Gainesville project, mostly in Squares E and C. Its presence may reflect occupation by wealthier inhabitants of the town.

## **Gunflints**

One French, "honey colored" gunflint was recovered during this project. This type of gunflint was considered superior to the English black or gray flints (Noel-Hume 1969: 220) and generally constitute the majority type in 18th century locales (Goodwin et al :44). The prismatic flint found at the site of the Gainesville courthouse (Test N49W17) resembles the common musket gunflint manufactured until the 1890s in France (Witthoft : 35, fig. 10g)

## **Glass**

Glass artifacts were initially sorted into window, bottle and lamp chimney glass. Each category was subdivided by color; bottle glass was the one category most easily sorted by color.

By the end of the 17th century, the majority of glass was blown. Resulting bottles were asymmetrical in shape and lacked mold seams. Bottles were either freeblown or dip-molded and required pontils.

The early 18th century saw the advent of hinged molds for bottle manufacture. Bottles molded in three-piece hinged mold have seams that hung horizontally around the shoulder and a vertical seam that reached the neck from the shoulder seam. There was no base seam (Goodwin et al. 1984: 41).

After 1810, a two-piece hinge mold started being used in the United States. Bottles manufactured in this way had single vertical seams that ran down the neck and body, across the base and up the other side of the vessel. By the 1840s two-piece hinge molds began to replace three-piece molds (Lorraine 1968: 40). "During the 1850s, the two-piece mold was improved and made more stable by the use of cup bottoms and post bottoms. In the former, a rounded seam encircled the base of the vessel rather than crossing the bottom, while the latter a circular seam appears on the bottom of a vessel that runs down the vessel sides and base to meet it" (Haskell 1981: 62).

During the late 18th and the early 19th centuries, bottle lips were cut off with shears resulting in abraded, plain cylindrical top. By the mid 19th century, two new ways to finish bottle lips were invented. The first consisted of applying a ring of glass at and/or below the neck opening. The second used a lipping tool to apply the lip which resulted in an even lip of soft glass applied to the neck, obliterating the seam, so that seam only went partly up bottle.



Around 1840, a new method of bottle manufacture resulted in smooth pontil scars (White 1978). In the 1850s, snap cases were introduced resulting in no pontil scars at the bottle's base. The practice of turning bottles in the mold resulted in the obliteration of seams. This practice began in the 1870s.

Automatic bottle machines began to be introduced in late 19th century. Initially, semi-automatic machines produced wide mouth jars seams with running up to but not over lip (Lorraine 1968: 43). Fully automatic machines were developed by Michael Owens in 1903. Bottles manufactured with this technology are characterized by a ring seam and a continuous side seam over the lip.

Clear, soda-based lime glass appeared after the Civil War replacing lead glass. William Leighton in 1864 originated the process that created clear glass which was tinted with manganese oxide to eliminate the green color. Clear glass manufactured in this fashion tended to become amethyst-colored when exposed to the sun (Goodwin et al. 1984: 42).

After the Civil War there also was greater use of medicine bottle. Panel flasks appeared in the early 1860s, while embossed lettering becomes popular from 1860 to 1920.

### **Native American Artifacts**

As shown in Table 3, a few American Indian sherds and lithic tools are present in the excavated materials. Two projectile points were recovered (Plate 6). A small Mississippian Triangular biface (cf. Williams and Brain 1983: 234-5) was found in

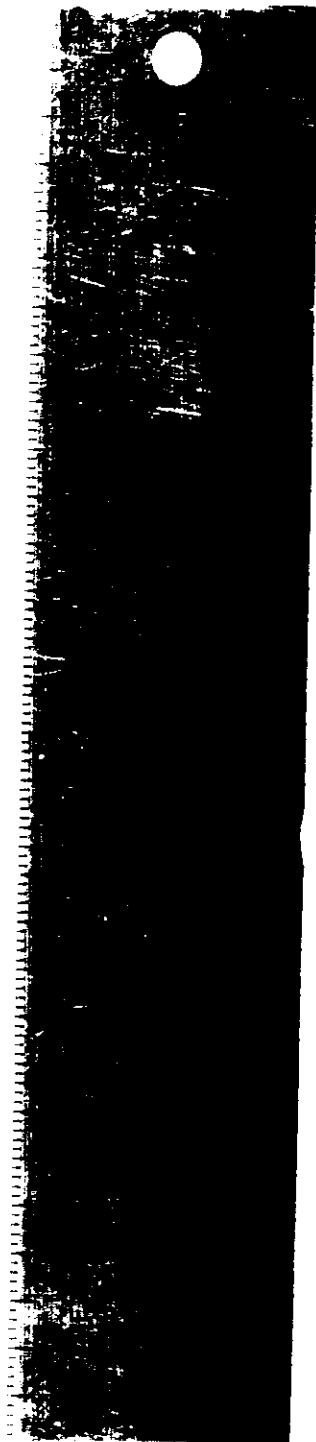


Plate 6. Native American artifacts.

Section I, line 11, test 7, in association with three brick fragments and remnants of dark green and light green bottles. Also in this unit was a rough biface made from tan chert, still exhibiting traces of cortex and a sherd of clay tempered, sandy paste ceramic, classified as Bayton Plain, *var. unspecified*.

A second projectile point was discovered in Section III, Square J, line 51, test 2. The point (Plate 6), classified as Edwards Stemmed, is similar to *var. Sunflower* (Williams and Brain 1983: 227), which is a marker for the Mississippian Period at the Lake George Site. The point from Gainesville was discovered in direct association with a full assemblage of European-American artifacts, including four nails, four pieces of pearlware, including one blue transfer and one showing evidence of burning, and 10 fragments of glass bottles. Two small Rangia cuneata shells were also excavated in this test unit.

Indian ceramics, lithic waste flakes (some utilized) and at least one scraper, were discovered in several localities in the project area. Square E, near the Poitevent House was an area that contained both Indian artifacts and Rangia, and may have been the site of a late prehistoric or protohistoric midden. Additional finds of Aboriginal artifacts include the southwestern corner of Square J, the area east of Square K (lines 12,13, and 14); and the area fronting the river, especially Squares C and D. The acidic conditions of the soil in the project area resulted in very poor bone preservation. Consequently, it is difficult at this time to determine whether the Indian artifacts are part of midden deposits, or artifacts redeposited by later activities. Clearly, the Gainesville area, given its physiographic location, is a high probability area for

American Indian historic and prehistoric occupations.

A few American Indian sherds were discovered during the test excavations of Gainesville. All the sherds are clay tempered, manufactured on sandy paste, and at times covered by a dark red clay slip applied to the exterior and/or interior of the vessel. All sherds are very small, none are decorated, and only one is from a rim. At this time, all but one of these sherds are classified as Baytown Plain, *var. Gainesville*. This is a very preliminary variety designation that will require additional finds and better dating prior to its formalization. One sherd is probably a badly preserved example of Mississippi Plain. All Indian ceramics and the two finished bifaces, seem to represent late prehistoric or early historic occupations. These materials are found in association with European and American artifacts.

Three oyster shell gorgets were recovered during these excavations. All three were recovered from Test 7 in Line 2. The shells show two or three perforations (Plate 6).

### *Results: Spatial and Functional*

#### **Courthouse**

Test units located in the Courthouse Square served primarily to identify the orientation and the preservation of the Courthouse building. These objectives were met, as explained above. The artifacts discovered during the Courthouse excavations serve to define a functional class for the Gainesville site. Since, over its history, this locality appears to have been occupied only by the courthouse (and a mid-20th century

residence), the artifact assemblage can be presumed to represent the remains of activities related to administrative, and non-domiciliary functions.

As one would anticipate given the non-domiciliary nature of this locality, the representation of glass bottles and ceramics is relatively low (accounting respectively for 17% and 9% of all Courthouse artifacts). A broad range of ceramic wares are represented, with the exception of transfer wares. Cups, including handpainted and Mocha, are common. Whiteware predominates the ceramics from this locality (39%). The Courthouse also has the largest relative presence of mocha wares, which at 4% are twice as common as those found at the Hotel and at the Poitevant House localities. The Old Shop and the Coffee House have no mocha wares in their assemblages.

The largest concentration of glass bottles uncovered in the Courthouse are located in the southeastern corner of building. In test units N47W15 and N48W15, bottles were the majority of recovered artifacts, accounting for 55% of all artifacts in the former unit and 44% in the latter. The most common artifacts found in the Courthouse Square were metal (31%), mostly square nails, while window glass, both clear and aqua accounted for 24% of all finds. Four fragments of kaolin pipes were also recovered (N62W29, stem and bowl; N50W18, stem; and N51W20 stem).

Unlike the other "known" localities within Gainesville, the Courthouse also is characterized by the greatest number of chimney fragments from oil lamps (6% of all artifacts). Only the Poitevant House area revealed this material, and about a third less frequently than the courthouse occurrences. Finally, a large metal padlock was found in unit N60W26 (Plate 3).

When the bottle industry and the ceramic industry of the four functionally known sites are compared with the Courthouse remains and each other the following differences are evident.

- Aqua bottles are least common at the Poitevent House.
- Light green and dark green bottles are most common in the area of the "Old Shop" and the Coffee House. The Shop may have been the location of an old Coffee House which also sold wine and liquor as advertised in 1845.
- Plain pearlware is the majority ware at the Poitevent House, the Hotel, and the Old Shop. Blue and green edge pearlware dominates the Coffee House ceramic industry while whiteware is most common in the Courthouse deposits.
- Transfer decorations on pearlware are more commonly found in the Hotel and the Poitevent House tests. It is rare in the other three localities.
- Porcelain is only found in the tests located near the Hotel (14% of all ceramics) and the Poitevent House (4%). Only one sherd (0.3%) was found at the Courthouse. This ware was totally absent from the Coffee House and the Old Shop.
- Mocha designed pearlware was absent from the Coffee House and Old Shop. It is found most frequently (4%) in the Courthouse deposits.
- Stoneware is only found at the Courthouse and the Old Shop. In both localities it accounts for less than 10% of all ceramics.
- Cobalt blue bottles are most common at the Poitevent House (4%), are very rare at the Courthouse and the Old Shop (less than 1%) and absent from the

other two localities.

### **Sections I, II, and III**

Given the make-up of the bottle and ceramic industries detailed previously, the following survey lines and tests may indicate the past presence of structures that functioned in similar ways to those documented in early records. Line 5, test 8 and line 9, test 7, both in Section I, may be shops similar to the "Old Shop" and the Coffee House. This hypothesis is based on the presence, in these tests, of significant numbers of light and dark green bottles, the presence of a yellow glazed ware (occurring 7% of the time at the Old Shop and less frequently at the other localities).

Materials from Section II, line 40, test 6 and line 45, test 1, both in Square D, appear to represent localities where functions similar to those seen in the Old Shop may have occurred. As in the previous example, these tests reveal a relatively larger quantity of light green and dark green bottles, most likely wine and liquor, and a relatively homogenous and utilitarian ceramic industry. Further work with historic documents may reveal the type of structures and activities associated with these test units.

In Section III, the survey lines that cover Square K exhibit artifact distribution patterns possibly indicative of a residence. The assemblage is most similar to that from the Poitevent House, although significant differences between them are evident. The Square K locale was the probable location of the Petermann House shown in the 1908

map (op.cit). The differences in artifacts include less variety of ceramics at in the Square K materials and the absence of porcelain and transfer wares. Further work is required to ascertain whether the differences between the two house sites are due to temporal and/or socio-economic factors.



## **CHAPTER 9**

### **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### *Summary*

The archaeological investigation at the historic town of Gainesville (22HA600) has revealed several sites from both historic and prehistoric periods. Temporal and cultural assignments for the historic sites were made on the basis of recovered diagnostic artifacts. Handmade bricks, square nails, bottle glass (dark green, aqua, purple, and dark brown), and crockery indicate an 1840 - 1900 occupation, the approximate time period of Gainesville's prosperity. Glass artifacts were most useful for estimating temporal provenience. After 1900, clear glass gradually dominated, and eventually screw top bottles became the most popular. Artifacts of the 1840 - 1900 era were found to be more abundant near the river terrace and within the area of the 1837 street plat of Gainesville.

The assessment of a site's significance is based on the abundance of cultural artifacts and/or visible features. Features such as concave depressions possibly denote wells, trash pits, or privies. These features hold cultural deposits which can preserve the history of individual house sites within Gainesville. Several brick piles are recorded which indicate the location of house sites and industrial sites.

Furthermore, functional analysis of artifacts indicates that the Gainesville site is represented, in its archaeological content, by relatively intact deposits. These remains provide valuable information for the study of 19th century communities along the

Pearl River. Given its previous prominence in South Mississippi history, Gainesville is an important archaeological resource for the study and practice of historic archaeology. Spatial and functional analysis of this site should further the archaeological methodology, while enhancing considerably our information gathered from documentary sources.

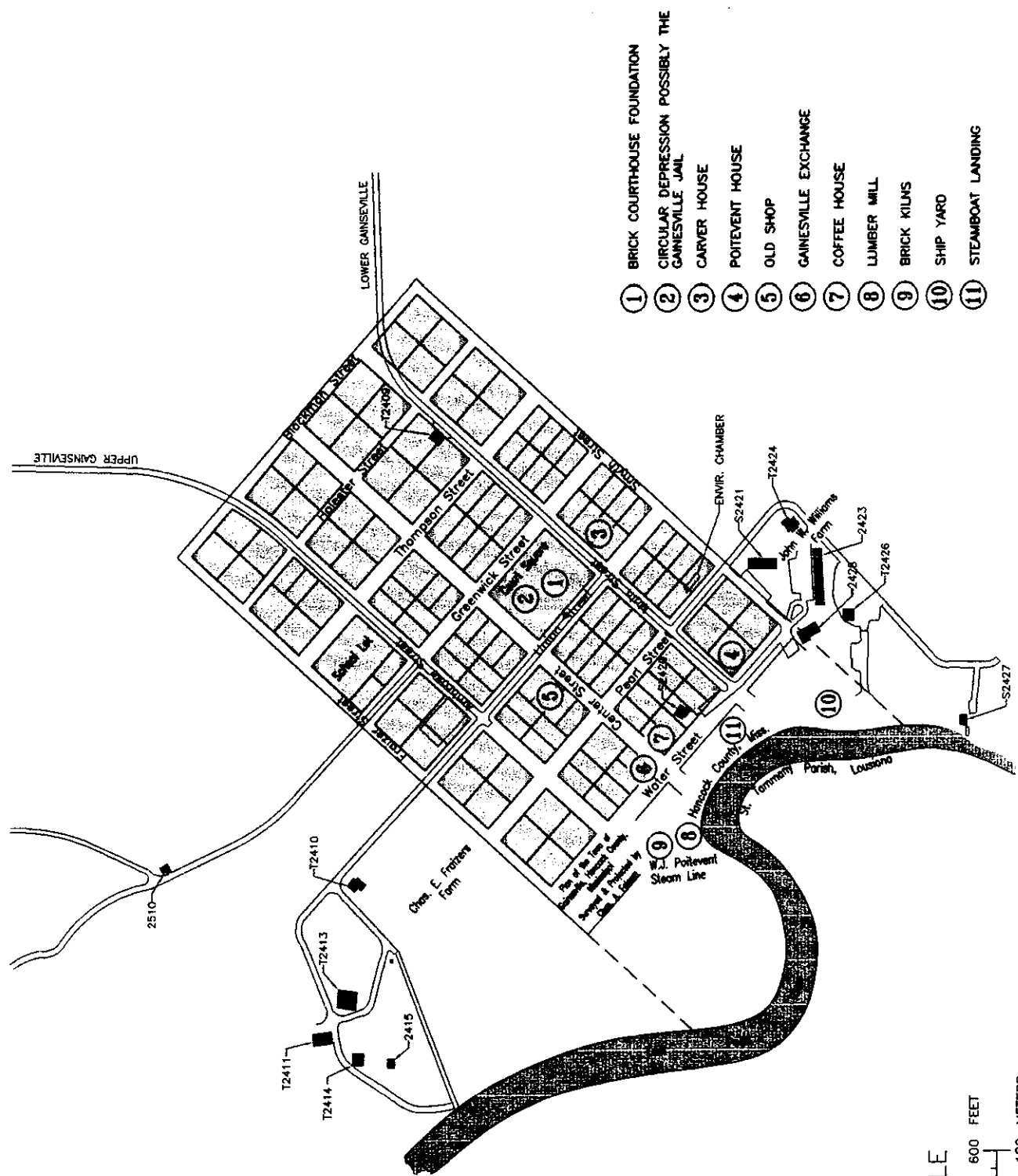
Several localities within Gainesville also include prehistoric cultural deposits. Most of these sites have been found along the terrace ridges bordering the East Pearl River and Harper's Bayou. One locality in particular may indicate an early historic contact period site. No prehistoric sites have been recorded previously in this immediate area, but historical records mention Choctaw residing locally. Preliminary analysis of the pottery found during the survey indicates primarily protohistorical and historical period occupations. Further investigations related to the American Indian finds will assess whether these artifacts indicate Indian occupation prior to or coeval with the American and European habitation of this river terrace.

#### *Management Recommendations*

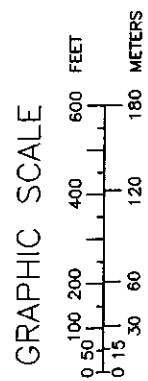
The Courthouse Square and surrounding area have been found to have unique historic significance. Testing in the area revealed relatively undisturbed archaeological deposits dating from at least the early 19th century. The Courthouse and village played a fairly significant role in the history of Hancock County and southern Mississippi. Although no extant structures of historic value are present in the surveyed area, the subsurface deposits represent a significant sample of functional areas that characterized Gainesville during its tenure as the county seat. There is a good correlation among

historic maps and documents and the results of the archaeological survey and testing program. Consequently, the area delineated by the 1837 Plat (Figure 14), bounded by Fraizer Street, Blackman Street, Smyth Street, and the east Pearl River, is considered to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and will be nominated to the same by NASA. NASA's Preservation Officer has been informed of the importance of the area and has agreed to mitigate future construction activities in the area, as consistent with SSC's Historic Preservation and Facilities Master Plans. No other archaeologically sensitive areas were delineated, and, therefore, it is recommended that no restriction be placed on development or activities within the Gainesville area, except as noted.

Future activities that may endanger the remaining integrity of the Gainesville site, as denoted by the 1837 Plat, will require the completion of a Phase II survey prior to any disturbance in the area. The impact of such activities will be assessed following the guidelines set by Federal and State Legislation as enforced by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and reflected in the NASA/SSC Historic Preservation Plan. NASA will ensure that professional archaeologists are involved in any design reviews related to projects in the designated area. By involving archaeologists in the pre-construction phase of any project, alternate sites or the resources needed to complete Phase II surveys and research can be planned by NASA, under the direction of the SSC's Center Operations Directorate, prior to any disturbance to the area. Through these steps, NASA/SSC will fully comply with the interest of the legislation dealing with historic preservation.



- ① BRICK COURTHOUSE FOUNDATION
- ② CIRCULAR DEPRESSION POSSIBLY THE GAINESVILLE JAIL
- ③ CARVER HOUSE
- ④ POITEVENT HOUSE
- ⑤ OLD SHOP
- ⑥ GAINESVILLE EXCHANGE
- ⑦ COFFEE HOUSE
- ⑧ LUMBER MILL
- ⑨ BRICK KILNS
- ⑩ SHIP YARD
- ⑪ STEAMBOAT LANDING



The area around Harper's Bayou (Figure 15) was only briefly surveyed during this project. Its location near Gainesville, on high land and near the Pearl River, suggest that the area on either bank of the bayou may have higher than the normal probability of preserved prehistoric and historic remains. Consequently, it is recommended that the Phase I survey initiated in the Harper Bayou area during this project, be completed prior to the disturbance of the area due to new construction. At this time, sufficient information is not available from this locality to ascertain whether this area should be part of the designated National Historic Property area.

The hypotheses developed during this project can be tested with further controlled excavations. This process would further the practice of historical archaeology, while increasing our knowledge of this community and its prehistoric antecedents.

In following the NASA John C. Stennis Historic Preservation Plan (1995), Gainesville will be monitored at least quarterly by the Environmental Office and inspection summaries will be completed. This data will be included in the annual submission to the Mississippi SHPO.

No items or human remains were recovered from this investigation which would fall under the terms of the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). No summary, or inventory is therefore required at this

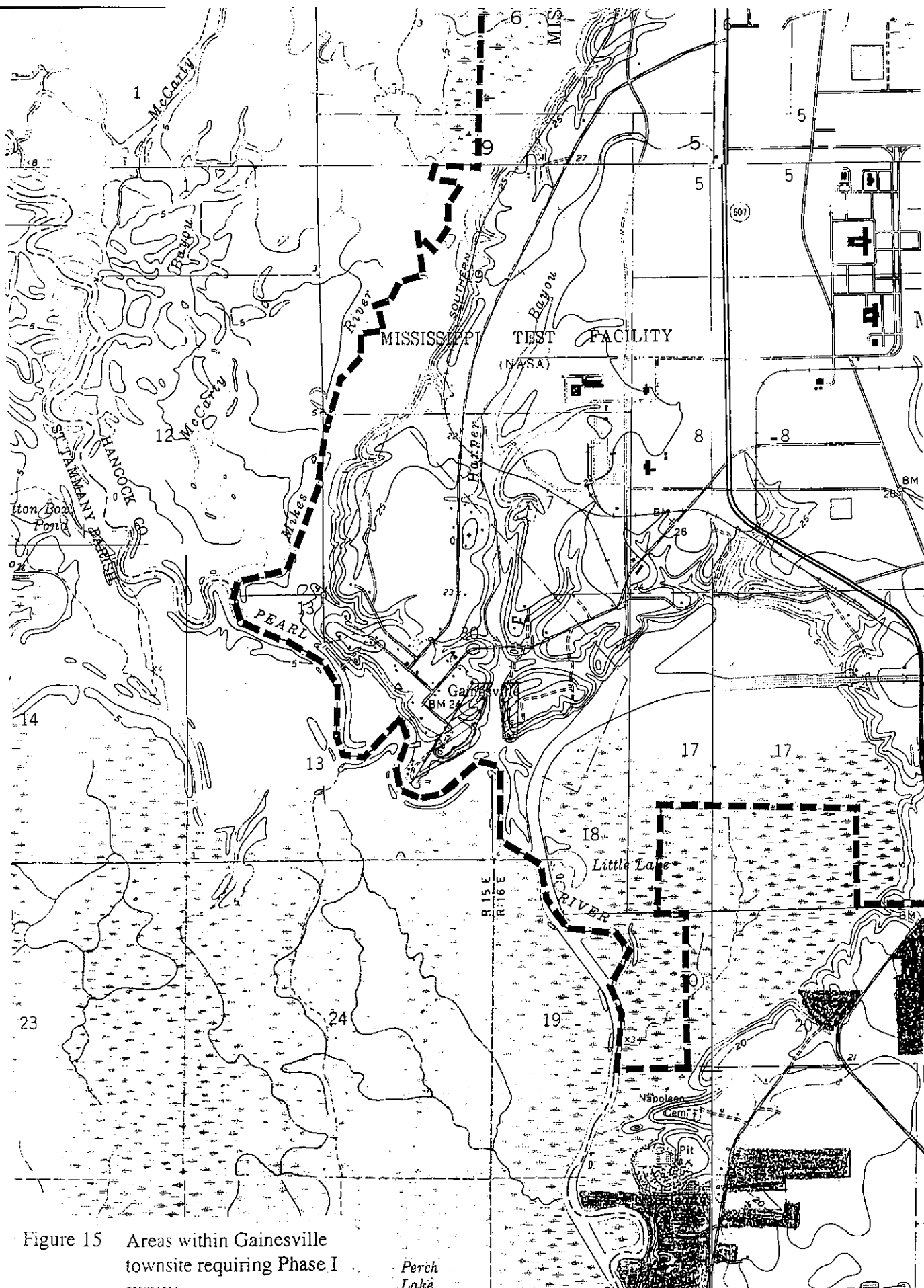


Figure 15 Areas within Gainesville townsite requiring Phase I survey

Perch Lake

time from SSC. Should future SSC studies recover such items and/or remains, or should such items and/or remains be discovered by any means on SSC fee lands, appropriate actions in accordance with the requirements of NAGPRA will be implemented. Should inadvertent discovery of Native American remains and/or objects occur, NAGPRA requires that activity (including but not limited to construction, mining, logging, and agriculture) be halted and efforts shall be made to protect the item before resuming activity. NAGPRA provides for agreement between culturally affiliated tribes and federal agencies on how inadvertent discoveries will be handled. It is SSC's opinion that if ground disturbing activities encounter NAGPRA items, the area of discovery, plus a meaningful buffer zone, should be sectioned off to prevent unauthorized access, vandalism, and inadvertent construction damage during a required 30 day consultation period.

Stennis Space Center's approved Historic Preservation Plan will insure the effective management and protection of the Gainesville Courthouse Square area and for any inadvertent discovery that may qualify under the terms of NAGPRA.

The plan to curate the artifacts found during this project is presently under development. Some artifacts may be exhibited at Stennis Space Center to further inform and educate the public on the Center's cultural resources (cf. NASA Management Instruction 4310.4C, *Identification and Disposition of NASA Artifacts*). The bulk of the artifacts will be transferred to a museum and/or university within the next four years following the completion of the cataloguing process. Negotiations with the Mississippi State Department of Archives and History relating to curation of the

Gainesville collection have already begun.

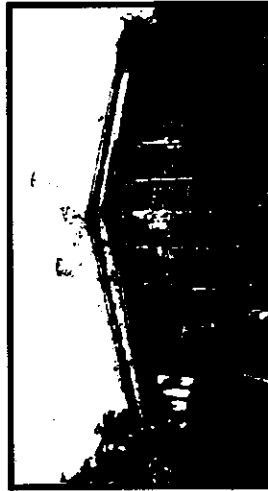
A type collection will be retained in the Stennis History Office for more efficient analysis of comparable finds from the site. All finds are immediately available to qualified persons wishing to study these artifacts. An interpretative sign will be erected at the site of the Courthouse (Plate 7). The site may be used for educational purposes, including teacher and student workshops. In those rare cases when these workshops require some excavation or survey, NASA's archaeologists will be present to assure that all activities are conducted scientifically and that they further the overall preservation and mitigation intent of Federal and State legislation, as well as the aims of the SSC Historic Preservation Plan.



# The Town of Gainesville 1810-1963

The town of Gainesville was founded in 1810 when Ambrose Gaines received a Spanish Land Grant. The small town grew due in large part to its location on the Pearl River. Its shipping and logging industry soon made Gainesville one of the most prosperous towns in southern Mississippi. Men like W.J. Poitevent and Henry Weston made their fortunes here during the turn of the century.

Gainesville was incorporated in 1846 and was the county seat for Hancock County until the courthouse burned in 1853. Gainesville's decline began when the county seat was moved back to Shieldsborough and the railroad bypassed the town. On January 10, 1963, the entire Gainesville area was purchased to make way for what is now known as NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center.

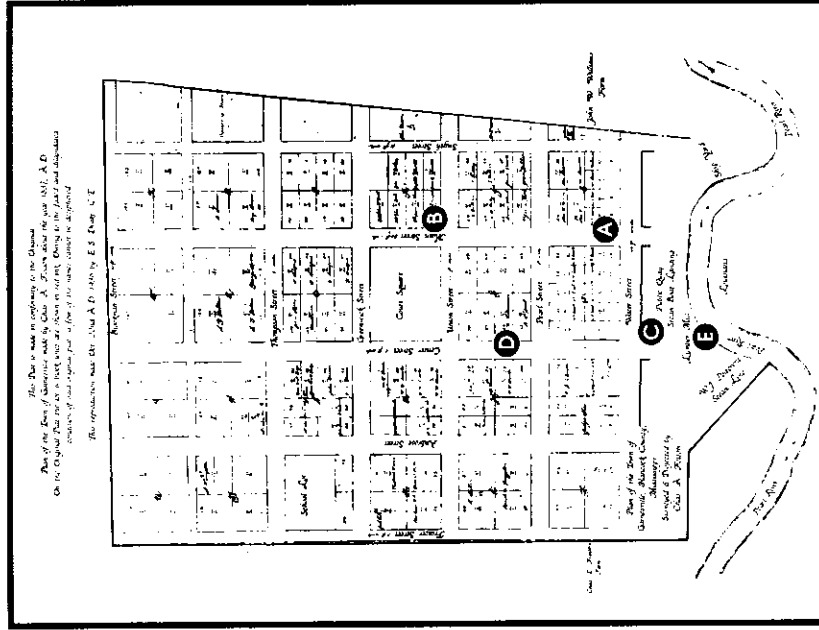


The Poitevent home, located near the river in Gainesville, was built in 1850. This was the birthplace of poet Elizabeth Jane "Pearl Rivers" Poitevent who later owned the *Daily Picayune* newspaper in New Orleans.



This 1900s photo shows the Gainesville loggers in their daily work environment.

Plate 7. Interpretative sign of Gainesville.



This represents the style of travel in the Gainesville area in 1915.



The Loveless Grocery was located across the street from Gainesville's Courthouse Square.



This is a charcoal kiln that was located in Gainesville in 1912.



The Carver home, built in 1865, was one of the last homes in old Gainesville.



The Farve and Poitevent Lumber Co. in Gainesville, MS, was the largest sawmill ever operated on the East Pearl River.

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